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# STARS AND STRIPES.®

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## Lawmakers baffled over US military goals in Syria

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers on Wednesday grilled Pentagon officials on President Donald Trump's overall goals for Syria, expressing confusion about the role of American troops in the war-torn country where Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has said their mission is solely to stamp out Islamic State.

Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., repeatedly expressed frustration during a hearing of the House Armed Services subcommittee on oversight and investigations as he attempted to ascertain the differences in recent statements by top Trump administration officials about the role of U.S. troops in Syria, where they have been fighting ISIS since 2014.

On Monday, national security adviser John Bolton said U.S. servicemen would not leave Syria until Iran withdraws its proxy forces from the country. Hours later, Mattis insisted some 2,000 troops are only in the country to back forces fighting ISIS and to train local groups to maintain security.

"My question to the Trump administration is this — what is your strategy?" Moulton, a Marine veteran who served as an infantry platoon leader in Iraq, asked Robert Karen, the assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs. "Moreover, we (lawmakers) don't even know what your long-term objectives are. I'm alarmed that the president's statements regarding Syria have been increasingly at odds with his senior Cabinet officials."

Trump has publicly mulled pulling troops from Syria as Mattis and other senior national security officials have maintained servicemen would remain there until the United States was certain ISIS or another terrorist group could not return to the area. Mattis has signaled

SEE SYRIA ON PAGE 4



## Giving her testimony

Kavanaugh accuser alleges that Supreme Court nominee sexually assaulted her in locked room at party in 1980s

By LISA MASCARO, ALAN FRAM  
AND LAURIE KELLMAN  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Christine Blasey Ford declared Thursday that Brett Kavanaugh sexually assaulted her as he and a friend

shared "uproarious laughter" in a locked room at a 1980s high school gathering, recounting her allegations to the Senate Judiciary Committee and a riveted nation in a drama that threatens to derail Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination.

SEE TELLING ON PAGE 9

### LATE APPEARANCE

Judge Brett Kavanaugh was scheduled to appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee after this edition went to press. Read the latest on the hearing at **stripes.com**.

Christine Blasey Ford is sworn in before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday in Washington.

WIN McNAMEE, POOL/AP

MILITARY

# Defense spending bill approved by House

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday approved a defense spending measure to direct more than \$670 billion toward a wave of Defense Department increases, including the largest boost to servicemembers' pay in nearly a decade and new gains in the number of troops, equipment and weapons for the 2019 fiscal year.

The effort is part of a "minibus" appropriations measure, a larger package of more than \$850 billion to fund labor, health and human services and education priorities. It also funds priorities directed in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act.

The measure passed by a vote of 361-61. President Donald Trump must now sign the legislation into law.

"It is vital that we pass this agreement this week and have it signed into law," said Rep. Kay Granger, R-Texas, chairwoman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. "The men and women of our armed forces deserve no less."

The defense budget moves on two tracks: the annual NDAA directs policy and spending plans for the military, while the defense appropriations bill is what actually moves money to the Pentagon.

Trump signed the 2019 NDAA, into law Aug. 13, which ushered through a series of new policy reforms, such as revamping the military's "up or out" promotion system and policies to reign in sexual misconduct and domestic abuse among the ranks. The \$716 billion NDAA also authorizes a 2.6 percent pay raise for servicemen-



DANIEL WETZEL/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

**The crew of a Marine V-22 Osprey prepares to refuel over Northern Territory, Australia, in August. The new Pentagon budget calls for the purchase of 13 more Ospreys.**

bers, as well as new purchases of aircrafts, ships, submarines and weapons.

The NDAA directs funding for Defense Department, as well as atomic energy defense activities under the Energy Department. Because it funds additional agencies, the NDAA directs larger spending priorities than its appropriations counterpart legislation, said Andrew Sherbo, a University of Denver finance professor who has tracked government and defense budget issues.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said he was confident Trump would sign the legislation into law. The 2019 fiscal year starts Monday.

"If you step back and look what are the two biggest accomplish-

ments of the Trump administration, it's been economic growth and rebuilding the military," Thornberry said Wednesday, following a committee hearing. "Signing this bill that we are going to pass today is the most significant step towards rebuilding the military because they will have a whole year to efficiently use that money."

But several times this year, Trump has threatened a veto of spending measures if Congress doesn't approve significant funding for a southern border wall, a move that could trigger a government shutdown.

A veto could set into motion a dramatic turn of events. At the end of this week, the House is slated to go into recess until the November midterm elections, Thornberry said.

On Wednesday afternoon,

Trump said he would keep the government open in response to a reporter's question on whether he would sign the appropriations measure.

"We'll keep the government open," he said.

If the defense spending legislation is signed by Trump by Monday, it would mark the first time in about 10 years that the Defense Department won't operate under a temporary funding measure, otherwise known as a continuing resolution, for the start of its fiscal year.

The Senate last week approved the compromise legislation in a vote of 93 to 7, sending the measure to the House.

The legislation also includes a continuing resolution to fund agencies that aren't covered by the minibus appropriations bill

until Dec. 7 to avert a partial government shutdown.

Lawmakers have lauded the plan's boost to pay, troop levels, funding of 13 new Navy ships, 93 F-35 aircraft, 18 C-130J aircraft, 58 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, 13 V-22 aircraft and the upgrade of 135 Abrams tanks.

They have also praised the measure's efforts to fund research and development of new defense systems and technologies, including the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, nuclear force modernization and the Ohio-class submarine replacement. The bill also funds cancer research, traumatic brain injury research and sexual assault prevention.

The plan builds on the momentum to increase the size and might of the military in response to China and Russia's growing capabilities as laid out in Trump's defense budget proposal earlier this year. The Trump request for the fiscal year included an increase of more than 15,000 active-duty troops, which lawmakers matched in the NDAA.

A two-year spending deal that lifted federal budget caps allowed the defense budget to expand. Coupled with approaching November midterm elections, lawmakers worked to pass the bills earlier than in past years.

However, lawmakers remain on a tight clock. Without a spending measure in place by Monday, lawmakers might need to pass a continuing resolution to keep the government operating.

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## MILITARY

# Is an official end to Korean War in sight?

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The 1953 armistice agreement ended three years of bloodshed on the Korean Peninsula, but the rival nations remain technically in a state of war to this day.

The warring parties — with South Korea backed by the U.S. and the North supported by the Chinese in a Cold War showdown — were unable to agree on a peace accord so they settled on a truce. It was meant to be temporary.

Nearly seven decades later, the search for peace has emerged as a key issue in nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang.

Acting as mediator, South Korean President Moon Jae-in said this week that a formal end-of-war declaration would provide a powerful incentive for the North to get rid of its nukes.

Ending the Korean War is an urgent task. It is a process that we must go through in order to move towards a peace regime," Moon said Wednesday in his address to the U.N. General Assembly.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un offered during his third summit with Moon to dismantle his country's main nuclear complex if the U.S. takes "corresponding measures." It's believed that a desire for an end-of-war declaration is at the top of his wish list.

It would seem a simple question. Everybody wants peace, right? So, what's the problem?

## Different goals

Both Korean leaders want an end-of-war declaration as outlined in the agreement reached during their first summit on April 27. But they can't do it alone. The armistice was signed July 27, 1953, by Army Lt. Gen. William Harrison Jr. on behalf of the U.S.-led United Nations Command, which fought for the South, and North Korean Gen. Nam Il, representing his country and allied Chinese forces.

South Korea wasn't at the table because

then-President Syngman Rhee didn't want to stop at the 38th Parallel. He wanted to keep fighting to unify the peninsula.

The signatories later met at a Geneva conference in 1954 to try to forge a peace treaty, but they failed.

President Donald Trump has shown enthusiasm for the idea, tweeting "KOREAN WAR TO END!" after Moon and Kim held their April summit. He also has expressed a desire to pull out U.S. forces to save money while insisting it's not part of the current equation.

The agreement he signed with Kim in their historic June 12 meeting in Singapore called for joint efforts to build a "lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula." But U.S. officials insist those efforts are dependent on denuclearization. Kim and Moon have pressed forward with improving bilateral relations, agreeing earlier this month to a far-reaching military agreement aimed at easing border tensions. The UNC — commanded by Gen. Vincent Brooks, who also leads U.S. Forces Korea — has said it's planning to "thoroughly review" the deal.

## Bargaining chip

The Trump administration doesn't trust North Korea's promises that it's committed to denuclearization. Senior U.S. officials want to keep the end-of-war declaration as leverage, saying North Korea first should provide a detailed inventory of its nuclear facilities and take other concrete measures.

Pyongyang, however, insists it should be rewarded for steps it already has taken, including a missile- and nuclear-testing freeze and the purported destruction of its underground nuclear-testing site.

Talks between the two sides, which peaked with the unprecedented U.S.-North Korean summit in Singapore, have stalled over details.

Moon, who assumed power last year promising to seek engagement with the North, is eager to maintain the momentum. But he is caught in the middle between the North and the U.S., a staunch ally that pro-



Courtesy of Pyongyang Press Corps

Joined by their wives, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, center left, and South Korean President Moon Jae-in join hands earlier this month atop Mount Paektu in North Korea.

tests the South with ground troops and a so-called nuclear umbrella.

The South Korean president repeatedly has said he hopes an end-of-war declaration will be made by the end of the year.

## Alliance worries

Many in Washington worry the declaration would accelerate efforts toward a peace treaty and would undermine the justification for stationing 28,500 U.S. troops in South Korea.

The armistice cemented the post-World War II division of the peninsula and put the UNC in charge of enforcing the agreement and overseeing the southern side of the Demilitarized Zone.

The U.S. also has a separate mutual defense treaty with South Korea, signed shortly after the armistice.

Supporters argue that an end-of-war declaration and even a subsequent peace treaty would not mean the withdrawal of U.S. forces because that would be up to Seoul and Washington.

Kim also has suggested that declaring an end to the war would have nothing to do with American troops or the alliance. But he hasn't publicly stated that himself or via his government's propaganda organs, leading to skepticism among his aims.

Kim also is seeking security guarantees, and ejecting the U.S. from the peninsula has been a long-held goal of North Korea and its communist ally, China.

Critics also have raised concern that left-leaning South Koreans eventually could seize the momentum to push for the

Americans' departure.

## Details, details

South Korean presidential adviser Moon Chung-in recently outlined a detailed proposal for an end-of-war declaration that would include Seoul, Washington and Pyongyang.

He said it would mean the end of hostile relations between the three nations and would stipulate that the existing armistice agreement would remain unaltered "until a peace treaty is signed."

That would mean the UNC would not be dissolved and the "status quo on the Korean Peninsula will be maintained."

The adviser's comments, made during a news conference earlier this month, clearly were aimed at alleviating alliance jitters. But he conceded the North has not offered any specifics of its own other than Kim's assurances that were relayed by visiting envoys.

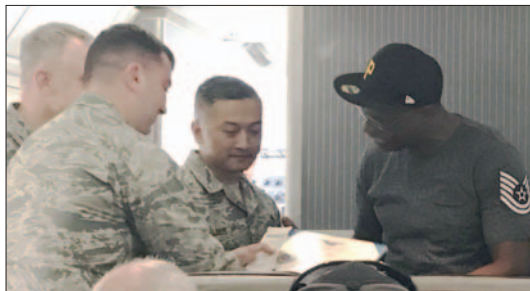
Moon said the end-of-war declaration would be political in nature and no peace treaty would be signed without the nuclear disarmament of the North.

Two-thirds of the U.S. Senate also would have to ratify any peace treaty.

Meanwhile, prominent North Korean defector and former diplomat Thae Yong Ho warned on his blog that the regime has long maintained that an end-of-war declaration would mean an end to the armistice and the U.S.-led UNC.

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# Airman gets high-level sendoff with surprise at S. Korean air base



KIM GAMEL/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Terry White, right, received a surprise promotion Thursday to technical sergeant aboard a Patriot Express flight before leaving Osan Air Base, South Korea.

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — The Patriot Express, a biweekly, military-chartered flight from South Korea to Seattle, got off to an unusual start Thursday.

Passengers were informed takeoff would be slightly delayed because an airman had the wrong rank on his paperwork. Staff Sgt. Terry White was asked to gather his belongings and go to the front of the plane.

But instead of an embarrassing rebuke, White was awarded a surprise promotion to technical sergeant by 51st Fighter Wing commander Col. William Betts and other officers. They pinned his new stripes onto his T-shirt.

Passengers' expressions of concern turned to smiles and applause. A film crew that had been pretending to document the boarding process captured the moment.

White, 32, of Pittsburgh, said he had no idea it was coming when he boarded the

flight to begin his transfer to Barksdale Air Force Base, La., after four years with the 51st Maintenance Group at Osan.

"I was feeling kind of sad about leaving after being here so long," he told a Stars and Stripes reporter who was on the same flight. "I didn't expect this to happen at all."

White said his first thought when his name was called was concern that something had happened to his dog, Boss, who was being transported in the cargo hold below.

"Then he gave me the STEP promotion," said White, referring to the acronym for the Air Force program Stripes for Exceptional Performers aimed at promoting standout enlisted airmen. "It was mind-blowing."

He said he had tested four times and was thrilled to finally earn the promotion.

To top it off, White, who joined the Air Force in 2005, got to stay in the forward seat.

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## MIDEAST

# End sought for US involvement in Yemen

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan group of more than a dozen House lawmakers introduced legislation Wednesday to end U.S. military involvement in Yemen.

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, joined more than a dozen of his colleagues, including Reps. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., and Mark Pocan, D-Wis., to withdraw U.S. armed forces from engaging in the fight between the Saudi Arabia-backed government forces and the Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, the lawmakers said Wednesday.

“Yemen is facing the worst humanitarian crisis in the world right now that has been significantly exacerbated by the civil war. The impact of the Saudi coalition’s actions on the dire humanitarian crisis is undeniable,” Smith said in a statement with the lawmakers.

“The U.S. should be aggressively pushing a peaceful solution to end this civil war instead of supporting the Saudi-led coalition military campaign that has only destabilized the crisis further. We must make it clear that the U.S. should not be choosing sides in this civil war while the people of Yemen continue to suffer.”

U.S. forces have provided support for Saudi-led forces in their fight against the Houthis, which some lawmakers contend the military has not been given proper authority to do. The forces have assisted in coordinating, refueling and providing targeting guidance and intelligence to the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

In November, House members approved a resolution that declared the Yemen effort unauthorized.



HANI MUHAMMED/AP

**Houthi Shiite fighters stand guard during a rally to mark the third anniversary of the Houthis’ takeover of the Yemeni capital in Sanaa, Yemen, in September 2017.**

Also last year, Khanna, Pocan and Reps. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., and Walter Jones, R-N.C., introduced a war powers resolution similar to the one introduced Wednesday. Smith is also a co-sponsor.

In March, the Senate voted down a measure by a bipartisan group of senators calling for the end of the U.S. military role in Yemen in a 55-44 vote. Sens. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.; Mike Lee, R-Utah; and Chris Murphy, D-Conn., introduced the resolution to force a vote on the matter for the first time.

On Sept. 5, Smith, Khanna and others said they would move forward with plans to introduce a new war powers resolution to withdraw U.S. forces from the war in Yemen. The plan has since

gained additional sponsors, including Massie and Jones.

The moves are also part of a wave of concern over what some lawmakers contend is outdated authority for the president to use military force, or AUMF. But efforts to repeal the existing war powers have faced plenty of opposition, including from President Donald Trump’s administration.

“When I introduced a similar war powers resolution last year, I, along with Reps. Pocan, Massie and Jones, were among a small group of members of Congress calling for an end to the U.S. involvement in the Saudi war in Yemen,” Khanna said Wednesday. “One year later, the bloodshed continues with widespread destruction and disease contributing to the world’s worst

humanitarian crisis. U.S.-fueled planes continue to drop U.S.-made bombs on innocent victims. This time around, our coalition to end the war has expanded and the call for withdrawing U.S. involvement is louder.”

Khanna expressed confidence that House Republican leadership would allow the resolution to come to a floor vote. Pocan, Massie and Reps. Jim McGovern, D-Mass.; Barbara Lee, D-Calif.; Ted Lieu, D-Calif.; and Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, also issued statements of support.

“The world’s worst humanitarian crisis has been triggered by our secretive, illegal war in Yemen waged alongside the Saudi regime,” Pocan said. “As the Saudis use famine as a weapon of war, starving millions of innocent

Yemenis to near death, the United States fuels, coordinates and provides bombs for Saudi airstrikes, and secretly deploys the military to participate in on-the-ground operations with Saudi troops.”

Earlier this year, the Pentagon defended its efforts in Yemen.

“Our mission is two parts; it’s counterterrorism, which we feel we have the authority to conduct that mission under our current AUMF,” Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White said. The other mission is supporting Saudi Arabia, which “has been attacked in Yemen by Iran-backed Houthis who have fired missiles and targeted civilian facilities.”

The current war powers were issued in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001, and in 2002 when the United States went to war in Afghanistan and Iraq. The AUMF’s gave the president wide-ranging authority to direct the military to fight terrorist groups such as al-Qaida, the Taliban and Islamic State around the world.

Since that time, the military has operated under those war powers in more than a dozen countries.

In 2015, former President Barack Obama’s administration deployed U.S. forces to provide logistical and intelligence support to the Saudi coalition in Yemen, which continues to this day, lawmakers have said.

At the end of his presidency, Obama approved a raid on an al-Qaida compound in Yemen’s Al Bayda province. But it didn’t take place until the first month into Trump’s administration. The deadly encounter left a Navy SEAL dead and killed an estimated two dozen civilians.

U.S. forces also conducted airstrikes in December and January targeting terrorism groups in Yemen.

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## Syria: Lawmakers ask for clarity on goals, positions of Trump administration

### FROM FRONT PAGE

that troops, at that point, would withdraw. Bolton’s statement Monday seemed to contradict Mattis’ position, Moulton said.

“That to me sounds like we are sending our military to Syria to counter Iran. Especially since withdrawal (of U.S. troops) is dependent on actions of Iran, not actions of ISIS or the defeat of ISIS,” he said, citing Bolton’s comments. “That is illegal under the authorization given by Congress, and I think the administration has got a big problem.”

Karem said U.S. troops serving in Syria are “singly focused” on ISIS and have received no orders to conduct any operations countering Iran. Nonetheless, he added their presence has “residual benefits,” including denying access to Iran’s proxy forces to areas of eastern Syria freed from ISIS.

Karem also warned that the regime of Syria President Bashar Assad, with the backing of Iran and Russia, was unlikely to reach a peace settlement with moderate

opposition forces that it has been at war with for seven years.

“I think I would also note that, analytically, Iran’s presence and activities make it increasingly unlikely we will see an enduring political solution to the crisis,” he said. “We believe such a political solution is necessary to achieve the conditions that will allow us to secure an enduring defeat of ISIS ... or another similar terrorist organization.”

But lawmakers questioned where the line between fighting ISIS and countering Iran might stand.

Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga., questioned whether there was any opportunity for the United States to win in Syria, asking Karem whether the nearly 20-year-old Authorization for the Use of Military Force passed in the days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks really justified the ongoing ISIS fight.

Rep. Ruben Gallego, D-Ariz., said he worried the Pentagon might use the potential resurgence of ISIS as an excuse to maintain a force in Syria longer after the terrorist group is defeated.



TIMOTHY R. KOSTER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**Children gather around a U.S. tactical vehicle on patrol with Turkish military forces along the demarcation line outside Manbij, Syria, in July.**

“What I’m interpreting right now is we may destroy ISIS and defeat the functionality of ISIS, but there seems to be this other element where the idea that ISIS may exist is the pretext of why we should stay in Syria, when the fact is it’s just to

buffer against Iran,” said Gallego, another Marine veteran on the panel. “If that’s the case you should come back to Congress and ask for the authorization.”

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## MILITARY

# Poland to gain Patriot missile defense radar

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Army awarded a contract worth more than \$1.5 billion for the production of a Patriot missile defense radar to be purchased by Poland, adding another piece to that country's emerging air defense system.

The Pentagon said that by 2022, defense contractor Raytheon will develop a tracking radar to intercept targets. In March, Poland signed a \$475 billion contract for at least two Patriot batteries, each with two fire units.

"Patriot will enhance Polish, European and NATO security while creating jobs in Poland and the U.S.," Raytheon said in a statement Wednesday.

Other NATO countries that operate the Patriot system are the United States, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands and Spain. Romania also has reached a deal through the Pentagon to acquire the system.

Poland, which is building up its air defenses because of concerns about a more aggressive Russia, factors into America's overall missile defense plans in Europe.

The Navy is moving forward with its missile defense site in the northern Polish town of Redzikowo, where work began in 2016.

"We are making progress," Adm. James Foggo, the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe, said during a June visit to the site. "Eventually, by 2020, this place will be turned over to the U.S. Naval Forces and we will bring it to life."

The U.S. effort in Poland is part of an initiative that integrates sea and land-based systems in Romania and Poland to counter intermediate range missiles.

Initially, the project called for an additional phase to counter intercontinental threats aimed at the U.S. But in 2013, the U.S. scrapped those plans in a bid to dampen tensions with Russia after Moscow argued that such a system would counter its own missile systems.

U.S. officials insist that American missile defense efforts in Europe are directed at threats from the Middle East, such as Iran, Russia, however, suspects that it has been targeted by the initiative.

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AARON GOOD/Courtesy of the Michigan Army National Guard

Servicemembers from the U.S. Army and the Polish Land Forces walk to the site of the new Patriot missile system near Drawsko Pomorskie, Poland, in June.

## Report: US threats haven't led Pakistan to restrict Taliban

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — U.S. threats to cut aid to Pakistan for its support of the Taliban have not led to any significant changes in Islamabad's relations with insurgents who seek to overthrow the American-backed Afghan government, the State Department said in a report.

The Pakistani government in the past year has not restricted the Taliban or its offshoot group, the Haqqani network, from operating within its territory despite vows to support peace talks between the Afghan government and insurgents, said the annual Country Reports on Terrorism, which was released Sept. 19.

"Pakistan did not take sufficient action" against terrorist groups that raise funds and train there, the report said, noting Islamabad's release last November of Hafiz Saeed, mastermind of the 2008 Mumbai attacks that left 16 dead, according to The Associated Press.

The U.S. criticism finds support among Afghan leaders who have charged in recent weeks that Pakistan continues to aid militants in the country.

Multiple attacks in Kabul this year were planned and launched from safe havens in Pakistan, and some al-Qaida members remain in Afghanistan, the report said.

The U.S. and Afghan governments have long accused Pakistani intelligence officials of supporting the Taliban and other militants, who find sanctuary in the rugged terrain of Pakistan's western tribal areas. Pakistan has long rejected those charges.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly accused Pakistan of



Courtesy of official Facebook page

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has reportedly called for a "more balanced" relationship with the U.S.

"housing the very terrorists that we are fighting," while also describing the country in a speech last year as a "valued partner."

The U.S. announced this year it would suspend about \$1.1 billion in security aid to Pakistan. A Pentagon spokesman earlier this month cited "a lack of decisive actions in support of the South Asia strategy" in the decision to cancel \$300 million in reimbursements to Pakistan for its counterterrorism operations.

Pakistan may be able to make up for recent cuts in U.S. aid by reaching out to China, which lent \$2 billion to the country in July and has offered both economic and military aid.

The U.S. had already cut military aid to Pakistan by 60 percent from 2010 to 2017 without causing any significant changes in Pakistan's behavior, said Vanda Felbab-Brown, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Since 2002, the U.S. has given \$33 billion in support to Pakistan,

which is battling terrorism on its own soil. Along with Afghanistan and Iraq, Pakistan is one of five countries last year where most of the world's terrorist attacks took place, Ambassador Nathan A. Sales, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, said in a teleconference discussing the report last week.

Islamabad has launched operations against al-Qaida in the tribal areas since 2014, the terrorism report stated. Terrorist violence has fallen in that time, but attacks on vulnerable civilian and government targets continue.

Afghan officials claimed to have found dozens of Pakistanis among the dead after a Taliban assault on the city of Ghazni in August, according to Voice of America.

Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah echoed the U.S. position on Pakistan during a speech Wednesday at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

"Real change has not taken place as far as their policies towards the Taliban," he said.

Pakistan might prefer a weakened rather than unified Afghan state. The ideal for Pakistan would be "managed chaos" in which neither the Taliban nor the Kabul government dominates, said Kamran Bokhari, senior fellow with the Center for Global Policy in Washington.

Yet Pakistan, despite how it undermines the Afghan government, could play a key role in any potential peace talks, said Michael Kugelman, a South Asia specialist at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington.

Pakistan's new prime minister, Imran Khan, could serve as a mediator with the Taliban as he may be seen by the insurgents as a trusted figure, Kugelman said. Khan has called for a "more balanced" relationship with the U.S. without "one-sided deals," according to reports prior to a Sept. 5 visit to Islamabad by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

"Pakistan's demands are sim-

ple: It wants the Taliban to have a politically significant role in any eventual endgame, and it wants an Afghan government that is friendly to Pakistan and unfriendly to India," Kugelman said.

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## MILITARY

# China: US B-52 bomber missions 'provocative'

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEN

Associated Press

BEIJING — China on Thursday labeled a recent mission by nuclear-capable U.S. B-52 bombers over the disputed South China Sea as "provocative" and said the U.S. was solely responsible for a recent downturn in relations between their militaries.

Defense Ministry spokesman Ren Guojiang also reiterated at a monthly briefing China's objections to a recent U.S. arms sale to Taiwan and the imposition of U.S. sanctions over China's purchase of Russian defense equipment.

"As for the provocative action taken by the U.S. military aircraft, we are firmly against it and we will take all necessary means to safeguard our rights and interests," Ren said.

Two B-52s flew over the strategic waterway, largely claimed by

China, earlier this week in what the Pentagon called a routine mission. Separately, two B-52s also flew this week over the East China Sea, where China has declared an air defense identification zone and claims uninhabited islands controlled by Japan.

China has sought to strengthen its claim to the South China Sea by building seven islands on reefs and equipping them with military facilities such as airstrips, radar domes and missile systems. Five other governments claim territory in the oil- and gas-rich area through which an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade passes annually.

Asked at the Pentagon on Wednesday about the bomber flights, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he wasn't concerned they might raise tensions with Beijing.

"That just goes on. If it was

20 years ago and had they not militarized those features there, it would have been just another bomber on its way to Diego Garcia or wherever," Mattis said, according to a Pentagon transcript, referring to a key U.S. base in the Indian Ocean.

"So there's nothing out of the ordinary about it," Mattis said.

China this week also demanded the U.S. cancel a \$330 million sale of spare parts and related support for Taiwan's U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets and other military aircraft, warning of "severe damage" to bilateral relations and mutual cooperation if Washington fails to comply.

Washington has no official relations with Taiwan's democratically elected government but is obliged by U.S. law to see that it has the means to defend itself.

The arms sale coincides with a U.S. decision to issue a visa

ban and assets freeze on China's Equipment Development Department and its director, Li Shangu, over the purchase from Russia of Su-35 combat aircraft in 2017 and S-400 surface-to-air missile system-related equipment this year.

China's purchase of the weapons from Rosoboronexport, Russia's main arms exporter, violated a 2017 law intended to punish the government of Russian President Vladimir Putin for interference in U.S. elections and other activities.

In response, China demanded the sanctions be revoked, summoned the American ambassador and defense attaché to deliver a protest, and recalled its navy commander from a U.S. trip.

China also turned down a request for an October port call in Hong Kong by the U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship USS Wasp. China last denied such a visit in

2016 amid a spike in tensions between the countries over the South China Sea.

The increase in friction could affect other exchanges, including a planned visit to the U.S. by Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe, a possibility Ren did not rule out.

"The U.S. side is solely to be blamed for the impacts on the China-U.S. military-to-military relationship. We request the U.S. side to take a rational and mature attitude and create favorable conditions for bilateral exchanges and cooperation," Wei said.

Asked about the confluence of contentious issues, Mattis on Wednesday said he didn't believe the sides were witnessing a "fundamental shift in anything."

"We're just going through one of those periodic points where we've got to learn to manage our differences," Mattis said.



WILLIAM TRACY/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman McKinney Malory, with the 50th Space Communications Squadron, celebrates after making a basket in the championship match of a donkey basketball mini-tournament at Ellicott High School in Ellicott, Colo., on Sept. 20.

## Airmen soar to second place in Colo. donkey basketball tourney

Stars and Stripes

You never know what you're going to end up doing during a volunteer opportunity when you're in the military — helping kids learn to read, assisting the elderly or playing basketball while riding a donkey.

That's what a group of airmen from Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., ended up doing in a school gymnasium on Sept. 20, according to an Air Force statement.

They took on Ellicott High School students and faculty members in a mini-tournament, which KOAA-TV reported helped raise money for a student trip to the United Kingdom. The human participants wore helmets. The donkeys wore saddles. The objective was to try to make baskets and to avoid falling off.

"First, you had to get the donkey to calm down," said Staff Sgt. Khalil Davis, space vehicle operator with the 1st Space Operations Squadron. "It took a bit, but we finally

started moving, coordinating as a team and scoring points."

In the mini-tournament, there were two eight-minute matches in a 16-minute set in which the airmen triumphed against faculty members 6-4, followed by a championship match against high school boys. As time ran out, the score in the championship match was 2-2. A game of rock-paper-scissors was used to break the tie. Unfortunately for the airmen, their rock was bested by the wily high schoolers' scissors.

Senior Airman Cameron Crabtree, an extremely high frequency satellite systems operator technician with the 50th Operations Support Squadron, said in the statement that airmen should volunteer, no matter how ridiculous the opportunity sounds.

"Also, if you ever have a chance to play donkey basketball, do it. It's fun," he added.

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## B-2 bomber upgrade to evade foes could run late

BY TONY CAPACCIO  
Bloomberg

The U.S. Air Force is working to keep its aging B-2 bombers adept at evading the improving air defenses of rivals from China and Russia to Iran and North Korea, but the most significant upgrade yet could be as much as 21 months late for initial deployment.

The improved electronic warfare system from Northrop Grumman Corp. for the 1990s-era stealth bomber is projected to cost about \$330 million more than planned, or about 14 percent more than the cost that the service calculated in 2015, according to officials and an updated Air Force estimate.

When the Air Force gave the company the initial major development contract for the Defensive Management System Modernization in 2016, it projected enough of the nation's 20 B-2s would be upgraded by about May 2022 to declare the fleet had an initial improved combat capability.

The system is intended to detect, identify and precisely locate enemy radar in dense, integrated air defenses. It works in combination with the B-2's composite materials, special coatings and flying-wing design.

But the Air Force's independent cost estimators now forecast that the date could slip to March 2024 and what was projected in October 2015 to be a \$2.68 billion program is now estimated at \$3.07 billion, according to documents and Air Force and Pentagon statements. That increase must be funded through 2025, so after making up some of the difference, the Air Force must find an additional \$300 million in its budget to cover the rest.

Northrop Grumman, the original B-2 contractor, also is the prime contractor on the coming B-21 bomber, so its performance has drawn particular Pentagon scrutiny.

The projected delay and the cost increase stem from a confluence of events, including the Air Force's adoption of a new acquisition approach that's taken longer to make final, and Northrop's failure until recently to fully staff the program's demanding software development.

The Air Force Global Strike Command, which is responsible for bomber operations, "is tracking a possible delay," spokesman Lt. Col. Uriah Orland said in an email. The timeline "associated with any delay will not be fully known until after the service conducts its next major review of the system's design, which is scheduled between Oct. 1 and year's end, he said.

"We remain committed to delivering this critical capability as quickly as possible," he said.

First used in 1999 over Kosovo, the B-2 bomber is the only aircraft that can carry the U.S.'s heaviest non-nuclear bomb, the 30,000-pound GBU-57 bunker buster.

Three B-2 bombers were deployed to Guam in January in what the Air Force said was a planned rotation as the U.S. executed its "maximum pressure" diplomatic campaign against North Korea to prompt denuclearization talks with the U.S.

Capt. Hope Cronin, an Air Force spokeswoman, said in an email said that the program office for the B-2 upgrade "is confident that the slip" in initial combat capability will be "significantly less than" forecast. Cronin said "much of the schedule pressure is due to changes in acquisition direction, the time to enter into a new contract structure and the time required to finalize" the defensive system's configuration.

Tim Paynter, a spokesman for Falls Church, Va.-based Northrop, said the company is "fully staffed on the program, and in partnership with the U.S. Air Force, is on track for certification" of the system. "As the largest modernization effort undertaken" on the B-2 evolving "the aircraft for tomorrow's threat environment is critical to national security," he said.

Ellen Lord, the Defense Department's chief weapons director, said in a statement in June by declining to delegate full oversight of the program to the Air Force, as the service had requested.

In a June 20 memo, Lord's staff said Northrop's performance "has been substandard" and that "it is unclear if the Air Force can afford this program, which has seen substantial cost and schedule growth" since the first major development contract in 2016.

## MILITARY



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie testifies before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on Wednesday during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

## VA Secretary Wilkie denies ties to 'Mar-a-Lago Crowd'

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — New Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie insisted Wednesday he's not taking cues from three members of President Donald Trump's club in Palm Beach, Fla., now known as the "Mar-a-Lago Crowd."

Shortly after Wilkie was confirmed as secretary in June, news reports revealed a trio of wealthy Mar-a-Lago members had been exerting major influence over Trump's policies on veterans. Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, questioned Wilkie at it Wednesday during a Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing.

"Some of us wrote a letter to the chairman that we would like to have an oversight hearing regarding what we would consider inappropriate influence at your department with three people from Mar-a-Lago," Hirono said. "I'm going to take this opportunity to ask you some questions."

Wilkie met for one hour with the trio in Palm Beach when he was serving as acting secretary this spring, he said. At that meeting, they discussed a major project to overhaul the VA's electronic health records.

"I've had no connection with them since then," Wilkie said.

The Mar-a-Lago trio includes Marvel Entertainment Chairman Ike Perlmutter, lawyer Marc Sherman and Bruce Moskowitz, a Palm Beach doctor. None of them served in the U.S. military nor the government, yet they ordered VA officials to steer policies affecting millions of Americans, ProPublica reported in August. Since then, multiple lawmakers have called on the VA Office of Inspector General to investigate

their influence over the agency.

On his first day as acting secretary this spring, Sherman was waiting for Wilkie in his office at VA headquarters. Wilkie said Wednesday that it wasn't a formal meeting and that their discussion was short.

"Somebody I never met before was standing there and told me for whom he worked, and I listened and I said, 'Thank you, I'm always happy to listen to anyone who wants to talk about veterans,'" Wilkie said. "I was not familiar with what was going on. That was my first day."

Speaking with reporters after the hearing, Wilkie said he has brought on a new leadership team, and "the institution has calmed down."

"I believe it's a nonpartisan institution," he said. "I'm going to do my best to work with Congress and make sure people feel good about working at VA."

Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., the ranking Democrat on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, said he spoke with numerous veterans groups who believe the VA has been "increasingly disengaged" with them.

"Collaboration and partnerships are more critical than ever," Tester said. "Unfortunately, in my opinion, it looks like the VA might be headed in the opposite direction, disengaging with veteran stakeholder groups ... and becoming less transparent when it needs to be more transparent. I hope that I'm wrong."

Wilkie responded that he plans to implement all-day meetings with veterans organizations once every two months. The first of those is Friday, he said.

In addition to questions about outside influence, senators asked Wilkie about staff vacancies; efforts to implement the VA Mission

Act, a \$52 billion, far-reaching reform bill that Congress passed this summer; and a host of other issues.

Overall, Wilkie said, "the state of the VA is better."

"I didn't say 'good' or 'excellent.' It is better," Wilkie said. "And I think we're headed in the right direction."

The hearing was dominated by talk of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which would extend benefits to veterans who served on ships off the coast during the Vietnam War, some of whom have been fighting for years to prove they were exposed to the chemical herbicide Agent Orange.

The House unanimously passed the bill in June, but it's been stalled with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee for months. Wilkie recently came out in opposition to the bill, citing high costs and insufficient scientific evidence. Many veterans groups and lawmakers have pushed for its approval.

Wilkie and Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, pledged Wednesday to work together to make changes to the bill and get it through the Senate.

"We shouldn't have two classes of veterans who fought, just because one was on water and one on land. But we should also not hand out benefits just because we think they ought to," Isakson said. "We need to look at the facts and see where they lead us."

A timeline was uncertain Wednesday. If changes were made to the bill, it would have to go back to the House for a vote. The House was expected to break after this week for the midterm election season.

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## In US combat debut, F-35 hits Taliban target

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The F-35 Lightning II stealth fighter jet, the U.S. military's most expensive weapon ever produced, was used Thursday for the first time in a combat mission, striking a Taliban target in Afghanistan, defense officials said.

The Marine Corps' F-35B variant of the aircraft carried out the strike on a static target in support of ground clearance operations after flying from the USS Essex, an amphibious assault ship now positioned in the U.S. Central Command area of operations, according to statements from U.S. Navy Central and the Marine Corps. The ground force commander deemed the strike successful, according to the statements.

"The F-35B is a significant enhancement in theater amphibious and air warfighting capability, operational flexibility, and tactical supremacy," Vice Adm. Scott Fierney, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central, said in a statement. "As part of the Essex Amphibious Ready Group, this platform supports operations on the ground from international waters, all while enabling maritime superiority that enhances stability and security."

Officials at the Pentagon declined to disclose where the strike took place in Afghanistan, how many F-35Bs were involved in the operation or why the fighter jet was chosen for the mission.

The Marine version of the aircraft is capable of conducting

short takeoffs and vertical landings like a helicopter. The Air Force and the Navy have their own versions of the aircraft but have yet to use them in combat operations.

The F-35B that conducted the strike was deployed as part of the Marine Corps' 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which was the Marines' first combat-deployed unit to replace the aging AV-8B Harrier attack jets with the F-35B, according to the service.

CNN first reported the Essex, which can carry up to six F-35Bs, was in position this week to put the fifth-generation fighters into combat.

Lockheed Martin began production of the F-35 in 2006, a program marred by cost overruns and delays. The F-35 program is expected to cost the Pentagon about \$406 billion for 2,456 fighter jets that the services intend to buy, according to the F-35 Joint Program Office.

The program's total cost is expected to rise to some \$1.5 trillion through 2070 once updates and maintenance costs are factored, officials have said.

Ultimately, the Air Force intends to purchase 1,763 F-35As, the Marine Corps intends to buy 353 F-35Bs and the Navy plans to buy 340 F-35Cs designed for deployment on aircraft carriers.

In May, Israel announced its air force had used the F-35 to strike multiple targets in the Middle East, marking the fighter jet's first combat use.

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## Air Force awards \$2.4B helo contract to Boeing

The Washington Post

The U.S. Air Force says it will turn to Chicago-based defense giant Boeing to replace its aging fleet of UH-1N Huey helicopters, which are used to protect the U.S. military's ground-based ballistic missiles, in a stunning upset against its Bethesda, Md.-based rival, Lockheed Martin.

The Air Force became announced Monday it has awarded Boeing's Arlington, Va.-based defense division the first phase of a \$2.38 billion contract to procure 84 of Boeing's MH-139 helicopters, the first of which is to be delivered in 2021. Air Force Secretary Heather Wilson hailed the contract as a

win for taxpayers, noting that initial estimates had pegged its total cost at \$4.1 billion.

"Strong competition drove down costs for the program, resulting in \$1.7 billion in savings to the taxpayer," Wilson said in a statement.

The UH-1N replacement is seen as an important procurement because the military uses them to protect U.S.-based nuclear missile launch sites from attack and to guard nuclear warheads as they are transported across the country. They also would probably be used to transport top officials out of Washington in the event of a nuclear disaster.



## NATION

# White House delays Trump-Rosenstein meeting

By ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A highly anticipated meeting between President Donald Trump and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein was postponed until next week to avoid conflicting with a dramatic Senate hearing involving Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, the White House said Thursday.

The two were set to meet Thursday following news media reports that Rosenstein last year discussed possibly secretly recording the president and using the Constitution's 25th Amendment to remove him from office.

But White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the men agreed to reschedule their meeting because "they do not want to do anything to interfere with the hearing."

Trump said Wednesday that he would "certainly prefer not" to fire Rosenstein and that the Justice Department's No. 2 official had denied making the remarks first attributed to him in a New York Times report.

"I would much prefer keeping Rod Rosenstein," Trump said at a news conference in New York. "He said he did not say it. He said he does not believe that. He said he has a lot of respect for me, and he was very nice and we'll see."

Trump added, "My preference would be to keep him and to let him finish up."

White House counselor Kellyanne Conway would not say Thursday when the meeting would take place, but stressed that the two will talk and Trump has made clear "he would prefer that the deputy attorney general stay on the job and complete the job."

Rosenstein is overseeing special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election and his dismissal would put that probe in jeopardy and would create a political storm.

Any delay in the meeting would prolong the uncertainty of Rosenstein's status. Rosenstein headed to the White House on Monday morning preparing to be fired and had discussed a possible resignation over

the weekend with White House officials. But after meeting with chief of staff John Kelly and speaking by phone with Trump, he got a reprieve with the Trump meeting scheduled for Thursday.

Since then, the White House has sought to tamp down anxiety that Rosenstein would be fired.

White House officials called senators Monday to say Trump had said he wouldn't be firing Rosenstein at the meeting, according to two people familiar with the conversations who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private discussions. Aides have advised Trump against taking any extreme actions ahead of the midterm elections with his party's majorities in Congress already under threat.

"Not wanting to fire Rod Rosenstein is consistent with what I have understood for weeks, not just days," said Rep. Mark Meadows, a North Carolina Republican who talks to Trump often.

Friends and former colleagues of Rosenstein say they didn't expect him to step aside and to give up oversight of the Russia

investigation and the enormous swath of Justice Department operations for which he is responsible.

Rosenstein, who has spent his entire career in government, "has tremendous loyalty to the department," said former Justice Department lawyer and longtime friend James Trusty.

"He's a very long-run, historical-minded guy in a lot of ways," Trusty said. "I think he may have some confidence that history will be kinder to him than politicians are."

Trump's remarks Wednesday followed a chaotic period that began last Friday with reports that Rosenstein had last year discussed possibly secretly recording the president and invoking the Constitution to remove Trump from office. The Justice Department issued statements Friday aimed at denying the reports, including one that said the wiretap remark was meant sarcastically.

Rosenstein appointed Mueller in May 2017, oversees his work and repeatedly has defended the breadth and scope of the probe.

## 'Mr. Kurd,' #MeToo: Highlights from Trump news conference

By JILL COLVIN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — He rarely holds formal news conferences. But when he does, President Donald Trump lets 'er rip.

For more than an hour and 20 minutes Wednesday, Trump held court with reporters in a sweltering hotel ballroom in New York City, where he's been attending the annual

United Nations General Assembly. Trump was in his element, sparring and joking with reporters as he addressed a host of issues, including the growing list of sexual misconduct allegations against his Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, and the threat of war with North Korea.

Here are some of the highlights:

■ **On sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh.** Trump told reporters he'd be watching closely on Thursday as Kavanaugh and one of his accusers, Christine Blasey Ford, deliver public testimony. He said it was possible he could withdraw Kavanaugh's nomination if he believes her.

"If I thought he was guilty of something like this," he told reporters, "yeah, sure." He added, "I could be convinced of anything."

But Trump, who repeatedly has defended men accused of sexual misconduct, also said his thinking on such allegations had been colored by the numerous accusations of sexual assault that have been leveled against him — falsely, he insists.

"It's happened to me many times," he said, citing "four or five women" who "got paid a lot of money" to make those allegations.

In fact, more than a dozen women came forward during the 2016 presidential campaign, claiming they had been assaulted, groped or kissed without consent by Trump.

Trump also continued to describe the allegations Kavanaugh is facing as "a big fat, con job" and defended his nominee as "one of the highest-quality people that I've ever met." Kavanaugh has also denied all the allegations against him.

■ **On the #MeToo movement.** Trump acknowledged, "This is a very big moment for our country" — but not because women feel empowered to speak out.

Instead, Trump said, "This is a very big moment for our country because you have a man who's very outstanding, but he's got very

strong charges against him, probably charges that nobody's going to be able to prove." Trump went on to describe "a very dangerous period in our country" that he said was being "perpetuated by some very evil people — some of them are Democrats."

And he warned that the country was adopting a "justice," "dangerous standard" of justice in which "you are guilty until proven innocent."

■ **On war with North Korea.** Trump claimed that President Barack Obama was ready to go to war with North Korea and that millions of people would be dead if he hadn't been elected.

"If I wasn't elected, you would have had a war," he said, adding, "You know how close he was to pressing the trigger for war?"

Ned Price, Obama's former national security spokesman, disputes that the Obama administration was ever on the verge of war with North Korea.

He said Wednesday night that "the Department of Defense always looks at contingencies" but that the administration believed diplomacy was the only viable option in the Korean Peninsula.

Trump also talked fondly of the inflammatory words he and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had exchanged before their summit, saying the two "both smile at now and we laugh at" what he dubbed "rhetorical contests."

■ **Canadian dis.** Trump said he rejected a one-on-one meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the UN because he's annoyed by the country's trade negotiations.

"His tariffs are too high, he doesn't seem to want to move and I've told him forget about it," Trump complained, adding, "We're very unhappy with the negotiations and the negotiating style of Canada."

Trudeau spokeswoman Eleanor Catonaro said that never happened.

"No meeting was requested," she said.

■ **On his relationship with Xi.** Trump once again claimed China has tried to meddle in the upcoming midterm elections in retaliation for Trump's tough trade policies — but declined to offer proof.

"We have evidence. We have evidence. It will come out," he teased.

Asked why he continues to praise China's Xi Jinping if the country is trying to under-



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

**President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference Wednesday in New York.**

mine American democracy, Trump stressed his strong relationship with his Chinese counterpart and praised the Chinese as "incredible people."

In fact, he said, he'd be calling Xi on Thursday to check in following the question by a New York Times reporter.

"In honor of you," he told the reporter, he'd be making the call.

■ **Nobody was laughing.** Trump insisted he was never ridiculed by leaders on the world stage, dismissing reports that he was laughed at during his address to the U.N. General Assembly as "fake news."

Trump allowed that he'd heard "a little rustle" as he began reciting U.S. economic gains under his watch, but he insisted, "They weren't laughing at me. They were laughing with me." Trump briefly had appeared flustered by the reaction Tuesday morning. He smiled and said, "I didn't expect that reaction, but that's OK."

As Trump tells it, "People had a good time with me. We were doing it together. We had a good time. They respect what I've done."

■ **Could go on all day.** Trump, who has long loved sparring with the media, seemed especially engaged on Wednesday, bashing the "fake news" with one breath and praising reporters with another.

He peppered his questioners with commentary, addressing one reporter he assumed to be Kurdish as "Mr. Kurd."

"I could be doing this all day long," Trump remarked, polling the crowd and asking whether he should continue taking questions. "It doesn't matter to me. A couple more, I don't care."

## More US firms warn of price hikes over tariffs

Associated Press

DETROIT — From Ford to Walmart to Procter & Gamble, a growing number of iconic American companies are warning that President Donald Trump's tariffs on U.S. imports are raising their costs and prices.

Jim Hackett, CEO of Ford, the second-largest U.S.-based automaker, said Wednesday that Trump's taxes on imported steel and aluminum are costing Ford \$1 billion and are threatening to ignite price increases across the auto industry.

Likewise, Walmart, America's largest retailer, has told the administration that Trump's latest round of taxes — on \$200 billion of Chinese imports — could increase prices for its shoppers. Walmart specifically mentioned items ranging from cat seats, cribs and backpacks to hats, pet products and bicycles.

Procter & Gamble, the consumer products giant, has warned of both potential price increases and job losses as a result of the tariffs.

In the meantime, drinking Coca-Cola is costing more because of Trump's tariffs. Macy's, too, has warned of likely price increases. So has Gap.

On Wednesday, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell took on the issue at a news conference after the Fed announced its latest interest rate increase. Asked about the Trump tariffs forcing up prices for America's consumers, Powell agreed that Fed officials are hearing from businesses about forthcoming higher costs.

"You don't see it yet," the chairman said, referring to the data the Fed studies.

## NATION

## Telling: Ford '100 percent' sure Kavanaugh was attacker

## FROM FRONT PAGE

Her account, delivered in a soft and sometimes halting voice, came as the Judiciary panel began an extraordinary session that Republicans hope will let them salvage Kavanaugh's chances of joining the high court. She showed no hesitancy in affirming the crucial question about the alleged incident, telling senators her certainty that Kavanaugh was her attacker was "100 percent."

The conservative jurist's Senate confirmation had seemed assured until Ford came forward and then other women emerged with additional allegations of sexual misconduct. Kavanaugh, now 53, has denied them all and awaited his own chance to testify later Thursday. It has become less clear that Republican leaders will be able to hold GOP senators behind President Donald Trump's nominee.

In an election season battle that's being waged along a polarized nation's political and cultural fault lines, Trump and most Republicans have rallied behind Kavanaugh. They've accused Ford and the other women of making unproven allegations and have questioned why they'd not publicly revealed them for decades.

But with television cameras the nation tuned to the hearing — senators among those riveted to their screens — it was unclear how lawmakers who will ultimately decide Kavanaugh's fate will assess Ford's credibility.

Ford has said Kavanaugh trapped her on a bed and tried undressing her, grinding his body against her and muffling her cries with her hand. "I believed he was going to rape me," she said in her opening statement.

Democrats have rallied strongly behind Ford.

Asked by Patrick Leahy, of Vermont, for her strongest memory of the alleged incident, Ford mentioned the two boys' "laughter" — the uproarious laughter between the two and they're having fun at my expense."

The 51-year-old California psychology professor spoke carefully and deliberately during the hearing, using scientific terminology at one point to describe how a brain might remember details of events decades later. The boys' laughter was "indelible in the hippocampus," she said.

Ford has said Kavanaugh's friend Mark Judge was also in the room. Judge has said he doesn't remember the incident and has declined to appear before the panel.

Ford told the top committee Democrat, California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, that she'd "agonized daily" over coming forward about the alleged decades-old attack. She said she felt the personal consequences would be akin to "jumping in front of a train."

In fact, both she and Kavanaugh have received death threats.

When Feinstein asked her how she would



Christine Blasey Ford, seated right, prepares for a break in her testimony Thursday before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington.

be sure that Kavanaugh was the attacker, Ford said, "The same way I'm sure I'm talking to you right now." Later, she told Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., that her certainty was "100 percent."

The Judiciary panel's 11 Republicans — all men — let Rachel Mitchell, a veteran sex crimes prosecutor from Arizona, ask their questions. She began by expressing sympathy for Ford, who'd said she was "terrified" to testify, saying: "I just wanted to let you know, I'm very sorry. That's not right."

Mitchell led Ford through a detailed recollection of the events she says occurred on the day of the alleged incident. But under the committee's procedures, the career prosecutor was limited to five minutes at a time, interspersed between Democrats' questions, creating a choppy effect as she tried piecing together the story.

Before she began, committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, of Iowa, defended the Republicans' handling of the confirmation proceedings so far. Feinstein criticized Republicans who have rejected Democratic demands to slow Kavanaugh's confirmation process and let the FBI investigate all the allegations, saying, "What I don't understand is the rush to judgment."

Kavanaugh and Ford were the only witnesses invited to testify before the panel. But the conservative jurist is facing allegations of sexual misconduct from other women as well, forcing Republican leaders to struggle to keep support for him from eroding.

Grassley complained that lawyers for other accusers have not provided information to his panel and said, "The committee can't do an investigation if attorneys are stonewalling."

Republicans acknowledged that much was riding on Kavanaugh's performance. Even Trump, who fiercely defends his nominee, said he would be watching and was "open to changing my mind."

Kavanaugh's teetering grasp on winning confirmation was evident when Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, expressed concern in a private meeting with senators Wednesday about a new, third accuser, according to a person with knowledge of the gathering. Republicans control the Senate 51-49 and can lose only one vote. Collins is among the few senators who've not made clear how they'll vote.

Collins walked into that meeting carrying a copy of Julie Swetnick's signed declaration, which included fresh accusations of sexual misconduct against Kavanaugh and his high school friend, Judge.

Collins said senators should hear from Judge. After being told Judge has said he doesn't want to appear before the committee, she reminded her colleagues that the Senate has subpoena power.

Republicans are pushing to seat Kavanaugh before the November midterms, when Senate control could fall to the Democrats and a replacement Trump nominee could have even greater difficulty. Republicans also risk rejection by female voters in

November if they are seen as not fully respecting women and their allegations.

In a sworn statement, Swetnick said she witnessed Kavanaugh "consistently engage in excessive drinking and inappropriate contact of a sexual nature with women in the early 1980s." Her attorney, Michael Avenatti, who also represents a porn actress who is suing Trump, provided her sworn declaration to the Judiciary panel.

Meanwhile, the lawyer for Deborah Ramirez, who says Kavanaugh exposed himself to her at a party when they attended Yale University, raised her profile in a round of television interviews.

Moments before Grassley gavelled his panel into session, Ramirez tweeted her support for Ford: "They want us to feel alone and isolated but I'm there wrapping my arms around you and I hope you feel the people of this nation wrapping their arms around all of us."

Ford told the committee that, one night in the summer of 1982, a drunken Kavanaugh forced her down on a bed, "groped me and tried to take off my clothes," then clamped his hand over her mouth when she tried to scream before she was able to escape.

Kavanaugh is being challenged on multiple fronts by his accusers, former classmates and college friends. They say the good-guy image he projects in public bears little relation to the hard-partying behavior they witnessed when he was young.

In his prepared testimony, he acknowledged drinking in high school with his friends, but said he'd never done anything "remotely resembling what Ford describes. He said he never had a "sexual or physical encounter of any kind" with her.

He also provided the committee with detailed calendar pages listing in green-and-white squares the activities that filled his summer of 1982 when he was 17 years old — exams, movies, sports and plenty of parties. That's the year when Ford says she believes the assault occurred.

Nothing on the calendar appears to refer to her.

Ford released sworn statements from people who said she had told them about the assault in later years.

Late Wednesday, the committee released a flurry of other documents of unclear significance.

Transcripts of private interviews with committee investigators show they asked Kavanaugh about two previously undisclosed accusations received by Senate offices. One came in an anonymous letter sent to the office of Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., describing an incident in a bar in 1999, when Kavanaugh was working for the independent counsel investigating President Bill Clinton. The other accused Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct in college. Kavanaugh denied them both.

## Calif. man lives in 'state of fear' after aiding Mueller probe

By MICHAEL BALSAMO  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A California man who unwittingly sold bank accounts to Russians meddling in U.S. elections is living in a "constant state of fear" after becoming a government cooperator, his attorney said in a court filing Wednesday.

Richard "Ricky" Pinedo has received death threats after testifying before a grand jury and helping special counsel Robert Mueller secure an indictment against 13 Russians accused in an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 presidential election, his attorney, Jeremy Lessem, said in court papers.

The 28-year-old Santa Paula man pleaded guilty in February to using stolen identities to set up bank accounts that were then used by the Russians. Prosecutors have acknowledged he didn't know that he was dealing with Russians.

Arguing that his client should be sentenced to probation, Lessem said in court papers that Pinedo has accepted full responsibility for his actions and provided "crucial insight into internal flaws embedded in the online financial verification system."

Pinedo, who is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct. 10, has provided investigators with "significant assistance" in identifying theft probes, prosecutors said. He flew to Washington to meet with investigators, ex-

plained how he obtained the stolen account numbers and gave investigators business records that identified the buyers of the stolen accounts, prosecutors said in a separate court filing.

Federal sentencing guidelines call for Pinedo to serve between 12 and 18 months behind bars, but noting his cooperation, prosecutors did not recommend any particular sentence.

From 2014 until 2017, Pinedo purchased the bank account numbers of real people and then sold the account numbers to anonymous customers on the internet, earning between \$40,000 and \$95,000, according to prosecutors. Pinedo never had access to the names, Social Security numbers or ad-

dresses of any of his victims and never saw himself as a thief, Lessem said.

Pinedo first learned he was in the FBI's crosshairs when federal agents raided his family's home in December 2017. Without a promise of immunity, Pinedo sat down with investigators from the special counsel's office and agreed to testify before a grand jury that was investigating Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, according to Lessem.

Since then, Pinedo has noticed "strange unidentified vehicles" parked outside his home, will not travel outside the U.S. and suffers from anxiety driving around his neighborhood, Lessem said.

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## NATION



JASON LEE, THE (MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.) SUN NEWS/AP

A basketball hoop barely sticks up above floodwaters Wednesday at Lee's Landing in Conway, S.C.

## House approves \$1.7B in disaster aid for Carolinas

By KEVIN FREKING  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed legislation that would provide \$1.7 billion to help residents of the Carolinas and elsewhere recover from recent natural disasters.

The aid was added to legislation to keep Federal Aviation Administration programs running beyond month's end. The bill passed 398-23.

Lawmakers described the disaster aid as a down payment. They said billions more will be needed in the months ahead to help communities devastated by Hurricane Florence.

Lawmakers are working to extend the FAA's programs for five years while tackling other priorities such as disaster relief.

Lawmakers also added to the legislation a bill giving the FBI and Homeland Security officials the authority to track and down drones deemed a "credible

threat" to people or federal facilities. That's something Attorney General Jeff Sessions had sought. Sessions said drones promise to strengthen the U.S. economically but "can also be used to wreak havoc by criminals, terrorists and other bad actors."

Privacy advocates criticized the provision. Neema Singh Guliani, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, said it gives the government new power to spy on Americans without warrants and to interfere with press freedom by restricting coverage using drones. The Electronic Frontier Foundation and a press-photographers group also oppose the measure.

The Senate also must pass the bill before it can be signed into law by the president.

Lawmakers are racing to address a range of issues before the end of the fiscal year. If the Senate doesn't pass the bill before then, it will need to pass a short-term measure that would keep FAA programs going.

The bill also makes changes to Federal Emergency Management Agency programs by putting more money into such things as rebuilding levees and building seawalls before hurricanes hit so the damage won't be as severe.

"This will save lives, save money and bend the cost curve of disasters," said Rep. Bill Shuster, R-Pa., and chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Lawmakers from South Carolina and North Carolina had urged Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to provide some quick relief for the states as officials assess the full scope of the damage that has occurred. At least 47 deaths have been attributed to the storm.

The lawmakers described the damage in a letter to Ryan and Pelosi. They said entire communities have been isolated because of flooding that was worse than any previous natural disaster in those states.

## CDC chief: 80K died of flu last winter in US

By MIKE STOBBE  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — An estimated 80,000 Americans died of flu and its complications last winter — the disease's highest death toll in at least four decades.

The director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Robert Redfield, revealed the total in an interview Tuesday night with The Associated Press.

Flu experts knew it was a very bad season, but at least one found the size of the estimate surprising.

"That's huge," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University vaccine expert. The tally was nearly twice as much as what health officials previously considered a bad year, he said.

In recent years, flu-related deaths have ranged from about 12,000 to 56,000, according to the CDC.

Last fall and winter, the U.S. went through one of the most severe flu seasons in recent memory. It was driven by a kind of flu that tends to put more people in the hospital and cause more deaths, particularly among young children and the elderly.

The season peaked in early February and it was mostly over by the end of March.

Making a bad year worse, the flu vaccine didn't work very well. Experts nevertheless say vaccination is still worth it because it makes illnesses less severe and saves lives.

"I'd like to see more people get vaccinated," Redfield told the AP at an event in New York. "We lost 80,000 people last year to the flu."

CDC officials do not have exact counts of how many people die from flu each year. Flu is so com-

mon that not all flu cases are reported, and flu is not always listed on death certificates. So the CDC uses statistical models, which are revised periodically, to make estimates.

Fatal complications from the flu can include pneumonia, stroke and heart attack.

CDC officials called the 80,000 figure preliminary, and it could be revised slightly. But they said it is not expected to go down.

It eclipses the estimates for every flu season going back to the winter of 1976-77. Estimates for many earlier seasons were not readily available.

Last winter was not the worst flu season on record, however. The 1918 flu pandemic, which lasted nearly two years, killed more than 500,000 Americans, historians estimate.

It's not easy to compare flu seasons through history, partly because the nation's population is changing. There are more Americans — and more elderly Americans — today than in decades past, noted Dr. Daniel Jernigan, a CDC flu expert.

U.S. health officials on Thursday are scheduled to hold a media event in Washington to stress the importance of vaccination to protect against whatever flu circulates this coming winter.

And how bad is it going to be? So far, the flu that's been detected is a milder strain, and early signs are that the vaccine is shaping up to be a good match, Jernigan said.

The makeup of the vaccine has been changed this year to try to protect better against expected strains.

"We don't know what's going to happen, but we're seeing more encouraging signs than we were early last year," Jernigan said.

## Ex-NSA worker gets prison for taking secret documents home

By DAVID MCFADDEN  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — A former National Security Agency employee was sentenced Tuesday to 5½ years in prison for taking what prosecutors described as a "massive trove" of top secret U.S. defense materials back to his Maryland home over a period spanning years.

Nghia Hoang Pho, 68, of Elliott City, Md., had pleaded guilty to willful retention of national defense information. At his sentencing in federal court in downtown Baltimore, Pho explained that he

took copies of U.S. government documents and writings containing national defense information so he could work from home and boost his resume. He told the judge he was trying to earn a promotion.

"I do not betray U.S.A. I do not betray this country," Pho, who was born in Vietnam and is a naturalized U.S. citizen, said in unsteady English before sentencing.

Regardless of his motivation, federal authorities asserted his actions put the U.S. at risk. He stored top secret digital information on an unsecured computer system at his house.

"Pho's intentional, reckless and illegal retention of highly classified information over the course of almost five years placed at risk our intelligence community's capabilities and methods, rendering some of them unusable," Assistant Attorney General John Demers said in a statement.

His defense attorney, Robert Bonsib, said the thefts did create a "risk and potential damage," but that the NSA cubicle worker nearing retirement never hurt anyone, nor did he try to disseminate the documents he took.

"This is a good guy who made

a long-term series of bad judgments," Bonsib told the court.

When asking for lenience, Bonsib contrasted the penalties Pho faced with the treatment wartime general and former CIA Director David Petraeus received when pleading guilty to mishandling classified information relating to documents he provided to his biographer, with whom he was having an affair. That case was downgraded to a misdemeanor and Petraeus never spent a day behind bars.

Pho faced a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison, but

prosecutors sought eight. U.S. District Judge George L. Russell III issued the 5½-year sentence, followed by three years of supervised release. He also recommended Pho receive vocational training with English classes and mental health treatment.

Pho had worked as a developer in the NSA's Tailored Access Operations unit, which is involved in cyberoperations. Authorities say the work involved operations and intelligence collection from foreign automated information systems or networks, among other things.

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## NATION

# Racial comeuppance seen in Cosby saga

By ERRIN HAINES WHACK  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — After spending years building his persona as a model husband and father, Bill Cosby took an abrupt turn nearly 15 years ago with a now-infamous speech to an NAACP convention.

He used his celebrity status to condemn poor blacks, chiding them to pull up their sagging pants, deriding them for having children out of wedlock and blaming them for their impoverished circumstances.

"Are you not paying attention? People with their hat on backwards, pants down around the crack ... with names like Shaniqua, Shaliqua, Mohammed and all that crap, and all of them are in jail."

Cosby himself is now in a Pennsylvania prison cell, and many black Americans see his sentence as a moment of racial comeuppance.

As they learned of Cosby's

three- to 10-year prison term for sexual assault, the same people who were his targets in the 2004 speech regarded his fate as a convergence of karma, hubris and hypocrisy. Some quoted Cosby's own words in tweets announcing the sentence.

Cosby "made the decision to focus his attention on beating up on the black poor, on telling the world that black people were dysfunctional, pathological and underserving of equal protection under the law," said Temple University professor Marc Lamont Hill. "When somebody like that, who positions themselves as the moral authority of black America, gets called onto the carpet, you ain't getting no breaks here. People are going to be frustrated."

Writer Michael Arceneaux said Cosby's contempt for people who grew up in low-income communities, as Arceneaux did in Houston, left him with little sympathy for Cosby, who also hailed from humble beginnings.

"I found it enraging," Arce-



Bill Cosby is seen after his Tuesday sentencing.

neaux said of the "Poundcake" speech, so called because Cosby make a remark about blacks supposedly getting shot in disputes over dessert cake.

"I knew he was a hypocrite," he said. "To learn how much pain he has caused to women over decades. I find it ironic. Those speeches proved to be his undoing. I'm glad he got what he deserved."

Cosby's own words were a catalyst for his downfall. In a July 2015 memo outlining the decision to unseal a 2005 deposition in the case, a federal judge cited the speech: "This case ... is not about defendant's status as a public person by virtue of the exercise of his trade as a televised or comedic personality. Rather, defendants has donned the mantle of public moralist and mounted the proverbial electronic or print soap box to volunteer his views on, among other things, child rearing, family life, education and crime."

"The stark contrast between Bill Cosby, the public moralist, and Bill Cosby, the subject of serious allegations concerning improper (and perhaps criminal) conduct, is a matter as to which the public has a significant interest."

Cosby pointed to systemic irresponsibility, not racism, as the root cause of what was wrong with black culture. But after his sentencing, spokesman Andrew Wyatt called Cosby's trial "the

most racist and sexist" in American history. He referred to the entertainer as "one of the greatest civil rights leaders" and accused the media, judge and prosecution team of prejudice against a black man.

Cosby, who is 81 and legally blind, was the first celebrity of the #MeToo era to be sent to prison. The movement, which began a year ago, has centered on men in Hollywood, the media and politics. While several powerful men have lost their livelihoods and reputations, no one else has lost their freedom.

Rather than reveling in revenge for Cosby, the focus now should be on justice for all credible accusers, Columbia University political science professor Keith Boykin said.

"It's not about me. He didn't put anything in my drink," Hill said.

"As awful as he has been to the world, my commitment is not to punishing Bill Cosby. It's getting justice for his victims."



Myron Schlafman demonstrates how his arm got caught in a meat mixer Tuesday in Jamestown, N.D.

## Vet cut off own arm after losing hand in sausage-making ordeal

Associated Press

JAMESTOWN, N.D. — A 69-year-old Vietnam vet who lost a hand after it got stuck in a meat mixer while he was making sausage at his North Dakota home says he had to slice off his left arm above the wrist with a butcher knife or risk bleeding to death.

In his first public comments since the Aug. 17 accident, Myron Schlafman said he credits two police officers with saving his life by quickly applying a tourniquet before ambulance crews took him

to the hospital.

"I've always appreciated life, but not as much as I do now," he told KFGO radio.

Schlafman said he was taking a chunk of meat out of the mixer in the garage of his Jamestown home when he accidentally stepped on a pedal to activate the machine.

"I just looked and knew I was in big trouble," said Schlafman, who is right-handed.

The bone was severed, but his arm was still caught by muscle, nerves and skin. He grabbed the knife, which was within reach,

and cut himself free.

"If I would have hesitated, I would have stood right there and bled to death," he said.

Schlafman spent nine days in the hospital and underwent three surgeries. He will be fitted with a prosthesis in a few months after the stump on his left arm has fully healed.

"It would be very easy to sit back, feel sorry for myself and get depressed," he said. "I went through Vietnam. I can handle this."

By MATTHEW BROWN  
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Galvanized by court rulings protecting grizzly bears and gray wolves, Congressional Republicans on Wednesday pushed sweeping changes to the Endangered Species Act despite strong objections from Democrats and wildlife advocates who called the effort a "wildlife extinction package."

Republicans began with a morning vote in the House Natural Resource Committee to strip protections from gray wolves across the contiguous U.S.

Courts restored safeguards for wolves in the Great Lakes region in 2014, frustrating states that had been allowing hunts to control wolf populations.

Later Wednesday, lawmakers took up changes to the endangered species law itself, with a suite of bills that supporters said would make the law work better and eliminate obstacles to economic progress.

Critics said the measures weaken the law by shifting power to state and local governments and away from federal scientists.

Montana's plan to return the 1973 act has been building since President Donald Trump took office last year. Adding impetus to the effort was a court ruling Monday in Montana that restored protections for grizzly bears in and around Yellowstone National Park, putting on hold grizzly hunts that had been planned in Wyoming and Idaho.

"This ruling in Montana to me is the prime example of why Congress should modernize the Endangered Species Act," said Senate Environment and Public

Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso, a Wyoming Republican. "The grizzly bear has been fully recovered for 10 years. Even the Obama administration said so."

Barrasso said he prefers broad changes to the act rather than legislation on individual species. He has drafted legislation that includes a provision to block courts from intervening in decisions to lift protections for five years after those decisions are made. That would have prevented the grizzly ruling if it had been in place.

Other Republican proposals would speed up the process of deciding if species need protections, provide conservation incentives to landowners and give state, local and tribal governments more power in species decisions.

The hunt in Wyoming and Idaho would have been the first allowing members of the public with licenses to shoot bears in the contiguous U.S. since the 1990s. Alaska has had public grizzly bear hunting during that period.

Whether the GOP proposals ultimately succeed will hinge on who controls Congress next year. Barrasso said he does not expect significant changes to the act until after the November midterm election.

The ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva, said the Republican proposal comprised a "wish list" for industries that see the law as a barrier to development.

He said blocking lawsuits from wildlife advocates who would seek to restore protections could set a dangerous precedent by making the government unaccountable in court for its actions.



# NATION

## Man charged in Calif. killings has lengthy immigration record

BY CHRISTOPHER WEBER  
AND ELLIOT SPAGAT  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A man with a violent criminal history who was deported six times had no outstanding warrants when questioned last month about the disappearance of his aunt and so he was released, Houston police said Wednesday when the man was charged in Los Angeles with the beating deaths of three sleeping homeless men.

Immigration records are generally not public, so it remained a mystery how Ramon Escobar, 47, won an appeal in immigration court in 2016 and why he remained free after a subsequent arrest for assault.

The Aug. 30 encounter by Escobar with Houston police came two days after his aunt vanished and marked his last brush with the law before his arrest in California this week.

Escobar was charged Wednesday in Los Angeles County with three counts of murder, five counts of attempted murder and four counts of second-degree robbery in attacks involving homeless men.

It could not be immediately determined if he had an attorney.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Escobar was ordered removed from the country by an immigration judge in February 1988, and he was deported to El Salvador six times between 1997 and 2011. He had six felony convictions for burglary and illegal re-entry.

The Board of Immigration Appeals granted his appeal in December 2016 and ICE released him a month later.

Last November, Escobar was arrested on the misdemeanor assault charge by Harris County, Texas, authorities, according

to Texas Department of Public Safety records. He was convicted in May.

ICE spokeswoman Paige Hughes declined to comment on Escobar's case beyond a statement issued late Tuesday. The Executive Office for Immigration Review, which oversees the immigration courts, did not provide information.

Andrew Arthur, a retired immigration judge, said the Board of Immigration Appeals may have allowed Escobar to stay in the country and be released under ICE supervision by granting him asylum or some other form of relief, like "withholding of removal" or protection under the United Nations Convention Against Torture.

"Even people with horrendous criminal records are able to access humanitarian relief to remain in the United States," said Arthur, a fellow at the Center for Immigration Studies, which advocates for restrictions on immigration.

John Sandweg, a former acting director of ICE, said a serious criminal record can hurt an asylum claim but doesn't disqualify someone from withholding of removal. Unlike asylum, withholding of removal does not include a path to citizenship and is therefore considered less appealing.

Escobar was questioned by Houston police on Aug. 30 in his aunt's disappearance but police spokesman Kase Smith said he was not a suspect at the time. Investigators spoke with him because he was one of the last people to see Dina Escobar, 60, before she vanished in late August.

"We had no probable cause to arrest or book him," Smith said. Immigration status is checked by Houston police only when a person is being booked into the city jail after being charged with a crime, Smith said.

Authorities say Escobar later traveled to Los Angeles, where he was being held in connection with the attacks on homeless men. He is also now a person of interest in the disappearance of his aunt and daughter, the son of his uncle, Rogelio Escobar, 65.



Jim Mone/AP

James Cross talks recently about the growing homeless encampment in south Minneapolis.

## Minneapolis grapples with sprawling homeless camp

BY AMY FORLITI  
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — When a disturbed woman pulled a knife on Denise Deer earlier this month, she quickly herded her children into their tent. A nearby man stepped in and the woman was arrested, and within minutes, 8-year-old Shilo and 4-year-old Koda were back outside sitting on a sidewalk, playing with a train set and gobbling treats delivered by volunteers.

The sprawling homeless encampment just south of downtown Minneapolis isn't where Deer wanted her family of six to be, but with nowhere else to go after her mother-in-law wouldn't take them in, she sighed, "It's a place."

City leaders have been reluctant to break up what's believed to be the largest homeless camp ever seen in Minneapolis, where the forbidding climate has typically discouraged large encampments seen elsewhere. But two deaths in recent weeks and concern about disease, drugs and the coming winter have ratcheted up pressure for a solution.

"Housing is a right," Mayor Jacob Frey said. "We're going to continue working as hard as we can to make sure the people in our city are guaranteed that right."

As many as 300 people have congregated in the camp that took root this summer beside an urban freeway. When The Associated Press visited earlier this month, colorful tents and a few teepees were lined up in rows, sometimes inches apart and three tents deep. Bicycles, coolers or small toys

were near some tents, and some people had strung up laundry to air out.

Most of the residents are Native American. The encampment — called the "Wall of Forgotten Natives" because it sits against a highway sound wall — is in a part of the city with a large concentration of American Indians and organizations that help them. Some have noted the tents stand on what was once Dakota land.

"They came to an area, a geography that has long been identified as a part of the Native community. A lot of the camp residents feel at home; they feel safer," said Robert Lillgren, vice chairman of the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors.

The encampment illuminates some problems that face American Indians in Minneapolis. They make up 1.1 percent of Hennepin County's residents, but 16 percent of unsheltered homeless people, according to an April count. It's also a community being hit harder by opioids — with Native Americans five times more likely to die from an overdose than whites, according to state health department data.

One end of the camp appeared to be geared toward families, while adults — some of whom were visibly high — were on the other end. In the middle, a group called Natives Against Heroin was operating a tent where volunteers handed out bottles of water, food and clothing. The group also gives addicts clean needles and sharps containers, and volunteers carry naloxone to treat overdoses.

"People are respectful," said

group founder James Cross. "But sometimes an addict will be coming off a high ... We have to de-escalate. Not hurt them, just escort them off. And say 'Hey, this is a family setting. This is a community. We've got kids, elders. We've got to make it safe.'"

With dozens of people living within inches of each other, health officials also fear an outbreak of infectious diseases like hepatitis A. Medical professionals have started administering vaccines. In recent weeks, one woman died when she didn't have an asthma inhaler, and one man died from a drug overdose.

For now, service agencies have set up areas for camp residents to get medical care, antibiotics, hygiene kits or other supplies. There's a station advertising free HIV testing, a place to apply for housing, and temporary showers. Portable restrooms and hand-sanitizing stations have also been put up.

But city officials know that's not sustainable, especially as winter approaches. At an emergency meeting on Wednesday, the City Council approved a plan to use land that's primarily owned by the Red Lake Nation as the site for a "navigation center," which will include temporary shelters and services.

Because buildings need to be demolished, that site might not be ready until early December, concerning at least one council member. But Sam Strong, of the Red Lake Nation, said it's possible the process could be expedited. Once camp residents are safe for the winter, finding more stable, long-term housing will be the goal.

## Seattle-sanctioned tiny-house village will close next year

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A city-sanctioned cluster of tiny homes that housed homeless people without requiring sobriety will close when its permit expires next spring.

The Seattle Times reported that it will be the first time Seattle has formally closed one of its so-called tiny-house villages. A ninth village is set to open next month.

The villages are aimed at getting homeless people into shelter while they wait for more perma-

nent housing.

City spokesman Will Lemke said 39 of the 53 people currently living at the Licton Springs village in north Seattle have been there more than a year. He said many have significant challenges and disabilities such as chronic mental health issues.

The village operated on a low-barrier model, allowing people to use alcohol and drugs. Many residents complained that the village drew illegal activity to the area.

## NATION

# Scrabble dictionary adds 300 new words

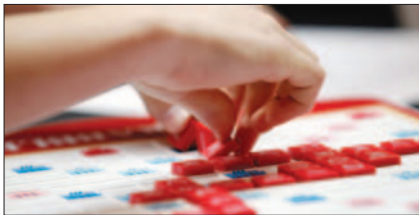
By LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Scrabble players, time to rethink your game because 300 new words are coming your way, including some long-awaited gems: OK and ew, to name a few.

Merriam-Webster released the sixth edition of "The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary" on Monday, four years after the last freshening up. The company, at the behest of Scrabble owner Hasbro Inc., left out one possibility under consideration for a hot minute — RBI — after consulting competitive players who thought it potentially too contentious. There was a remote case to be made since RBI has morphed into an actual word, pronounced rib-ee.

But that's OK because, "OK," "OK is something Scrabble players have been waiting for, for a long time," said lexicographer Peter Sokolowski, editor at large at Merriam-Webster. "Basically two- and three-letter words are the lifeblood of the game."

There's more good news in qapik, adding to an arsenal of 20 playable words beginning with q that don't need a u. Not that Scrabblers care all that much



STEW MILNE, HASBRO/AP

**A contestant competes in the 2015 North American School Scrabble Championship at Hasbro headquarters in Pawtucket, R.I.**

about definitions, qapik is a unit of currency in Azerbaijan.

"Every time there's a word with q and no u, it's a big deal," Sokolowski said. "Most of these are obscure."

There are some sweet scorers now eligible for play, including bizjet, and some magical vowel dumps, such as arancini, those Italian balls of cooked rice. Bizjet, meaning — yes — a small plane used for business, would be worth a whopping 120 points on an opening play, but only if it's made into a plural with an s. That's due to the 50-point bonus

for using all seven tiles and the double word bonus space usually played at the start.

The Springfield, Mass.-based dictionary company sought counsel from the North American Scrabble Players Association when updating the book, Sokolowski said, "to make sure that they agree these words are desirable."

Sokolowski has a favorite among the new words but not, primarily, because of Scrabble scores.

"It's macaron," he said, referring to the delicate French sandwich cookie featuring different flavors and fillings. "I just like

what it means."

Merriam-Webster put out the first official Scrabble dictionary in 1976. Before that, the game's rules called for any desk dictionary to be consulted. Since an official dictionary was created, it has been updated every four to eight years, Sokolowski said.

There are other new entries Sokolowski likes, from a word-smith's view.

"I think ew is interesting because it expresses something new about what we're seeing in language, which is to say that we are now incorporating more of what you might call transcribed speech," he said. "Sounds like ew or mm-hmm, or other things like coulda or kinda. Traditionally,

they were not in the dictionary but because so much of our communication is texting and social media that is written language, we are finding more transcribed speech and getting a new group of spellings for the dictionary."

Like ew, there's another intersection now in play, yowza, along with a word some might have thought was already allowed: zen.

There's often chatter around Scrabble boards over which foreign words have been accepted into English to the degree they're playable. Say hello to schneid, with German roots. It's a sports term for a losing streak.

Now the official dictionary holds more than 100,000 words.



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## WORLD



SUNDAY ALABAMA/AP

People attend the Ajido Voodoo festival in Nigeria on Saturday.

## Traditional voodoo festival held in Nigeria

Associated Press

AJIDO, Nigeria — Excitement grew in the crowd as the Zangbeto Voodoo festival reached a climax, with scores of colorful palm-frond figures representing the traditional guardian of the night.

As men and women in white ceremonial clothing sang and danced to the sound of heavy drums, adherents doused a cone-shaped Zangbeto with kerosene. A ball of fire rose as it went up in flames.

Some Nigerians frustrated by crime and corruption have suggested that reviving such traditions could be a deterrent. The performance over the weekend helped to create "fear and reverence," the chairman of the festival's organizing committee, Sehude Adeyinka Amosu, told The Associated Press.

Every religion has some hold on the people, he said. "The people needed to see that the Zangbeto is not just a toy."

The festival of about 2,000 people in the coastal Ajido Kingdom in Lagos State, held every three

years, is one of the most important events in the local religious calendar.

The Ajido Kingdom's leader, Aholu Saheed Adamson, described the Zangbeto as a symbol of authority of the ethnic Ogu people and a "means of security of entire communities."

The Ogu inhabit coastal areas of Nigeria, Benin and Togo. The West African region once was known as the Slave Coast because of the large number of slaves taken from there over centuries.

Beyond the slave trade, Ogu land is also noted for the voodoo widely practiced there. The use of the Zangbeto is said to date to the 17th century.

"As the traditional police and court of the people the Zangbeto handles such cases as theft," Seton Idowu, who believes strongly in its spiritual powers, told the AP. "Everyone fears the Zangbeto and you can get into trouble if you go against the rules."

The beliefs hold that Zangbeto's punishment could range from fines to the banishment of an individual.

tion Moscow has fiercely denied.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow on Bellingcat's latest claim.

The two Russian men have appeared on the state-funded RT channel, saying they visited Salisbury as tourists and had nothing to do with the Skripal poisoning. They denied the British claim that they were Russian military intelligence officers, saying they work in the nutritional supplements business.

Bellingcat said it perused pictures of graduates of Russian military academies and found a man resembling Boshrirov in a group shot. It then narrowed its search to one military officer, Chepiga, using leaked Russian databases available on the internet. The group eventually tracked down Chepiga's passport file, dated 2003, with a picture bearing a strong resemblance to Boshrirov.

# Iranian president: Country doesn't want war with US

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Wednesday his country doesn't want a war with the United States and believes America will "sooner or later" support the Iran nuclear agreement again following the Trump administration's withdrawal.

Rouhani told a wide-ranging news conference that the U.S. decision to pull out of the 2015 nuclear deal in May was "a mistake" because there are no benefits for the people of the United States, Iran, Europe or any other country.

"The United States of America one day will come back, sooner or later," he said.

He said the Trump administration made a "second mistake" in holding a meeting of the U.N. Security Council earlier Wednesday during which 14 countries either directly or indirectly backed the nuclear agreement between Iran, the U.S. and five other major powers.

Only President Donald Trump, who chaired the session, spoke against the deal known as the JCPOA, and he appeared isolated as a result, Rouhani said.

Addressing the council, Trump called the JCPOA a "horrible one-sided deal," declaring that Iran "must never be allowed to possess a nuclear weapon" and accusing its government of exporting "violence, terror and turmoil."

Rouhani said it was "quite strange, unprecedented and amazing" that while presiding over the Security Council as its president Trump also called on the 14

other council members to violate the legally binding resolution endorsing the JCPOA that the council adopted unanimously in 2015 — including a "yes" vote from the United States.

He added that Trump not only disagreed with that resolution but said whoever implements it "will be punished."

Responding to a question about whether the harsh language that Trump and his top official have used about Iran might lead to war, Rouhani said Iran since the 1979 revolution "has been subjected to that type of language many times." But he said Trump administration officials "speak with a different style, presumably because they're new to politics."

As for war, Rouhani said, "We do not wish to go to war with American forces anywhere in the region. We do not wish to attack them. We do not wish to increase tensions — none of the above."

"But we ask the United States of America to adhere to laws and respect national sovereignty of nations," he said.

Rouhani also said "America must think again about her presence in the region, in the Persian Gulf, in the Sea of Oman, in Afghanistan, in Iraq and other places."

Trump has vowed to continue to isolate Iran through U.S. sanctions that are being reinstated following the U.S. pullout from the nuclear agreement in May.

The next round of sanctions will take effect in early November.

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## Spy poisoning suspect is GRU colonel, group says

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The investigative group Bellingcat said Wednesday it has identified one of the two suspects in the poisoning of an ex-Russian spy in Britain as a highly decorated colonel of the Russian military intelligence agency GRU.

Bellingcat said the suspect, whose passport name was Ruslan Boshrirov, is in fact Col. Anatoly Chepiga, who in 2014 was awarded Russia's highest medal, the Hero of Russia.

Britain has charged Boshrirov and another suspect, Alexander Petrov, with trying to kill Russian ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter on March 4 with the Soviet-designed nerve agent Novichok in the English city of Salisbury.

Britain has said the attack received approval "at a senior level of the Russian state," an accusa-



## WORLD

# UN court asked to investigate Venezuela

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Six nations made the unprecedented move Wednesday of asking the U.N.'s International Criminal Court to investigate Venezuela for possible crimes against humanity, even as President Nicolas Maduro made an unexpected trip to the world body's headquarters to deliver a nearly hourlong speech declaring his nation "will never give in."

Maduro's speech at the General Assembly gathering of world leaders came hours after Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Paraguay and Canada formally asked the ICC to investigate Venezuela on a range of possible charges, from murder to torture and crimes against humanity.

"To remain indifferent or speculative in front of this reality could be perceived as being complicit with the regime. We are not going to be complicit," said Paraguay-

an Foreign Minister Andres Rodriguez Pedotti.

The six countries hope the move puts new pressure on Maduro to end the violence and conflict that have sent more than 2 million people fleeing and made Venezuela's inflation and homicide rates among the highest in the world.

Venezuelan officials have widely rejected international criticism, saying they're driven by imperialist forces led by the U.S. to justify launching an invasion. Maduro sounded a defiant tone Wednesday night, complaining that Washington was attacking his country through sanctions and other means and strong-arming other



Maduro

countries into going along in a "fierce diplomatic offensive."

"(The U.S.) wants to continue just giving orders to the world as though the world were its own property," Maduro said. "Venezuela will never give in."

But at the same time, he said he was willing to talk with President Donald Trump.

Wednesday marked the first time that member countries have referred another country to the Netherlands-based U.N. court.

Canada was among nations referring Venezuela to the ICC, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau seized the moment to defend the idea of global justice the court represents—the day after Trump attacked it in a stinging speech that challenged multilateral organizations.

Its chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, already has opened a preliminary investigation into allegations that Venezuelan

government forces since April 2017 "frequently used excessive force to disperse and put down demonstrations" and abused some opposition members in detention.

It is now up to the prosecutor—who didn't immediately comment on the request—to decide what to do next. The six-country referral could broaden the scope of the ongoing preliminary probe to the more serious charges leveled at Venezuela on Wednesday and extend the time frame back to 2014.

Human Rights Watch was among those hailing the request, which was based on two reports—one by the U.N. High Commission for Human Rights that uncovered widespread extrajudicial executions and other violations, and another by an expert group designated by the Organization of American States that found reason to suspect 11 people, including Maduro, of crimes against humanity.

## Harsh conditions cited for woman jailed for blasphemy

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A rights group says the Indonesian woman imprisoned for blasphemy after complaining about noise from a mosque is sharing a cramped cell with 16 other women and given "terrible" food.

Human Rights Watch researcher Andreas Harsono said the ethnic Chinese woman, Meiliana, was emotional but tough when he and other supporters visited her in prison in Medan this week.

"She was sobbing when talking to us," Harsono said Thursday in a statement about the visit. "The cell is about 30 square meters. The food is terrible," he said.

The case has highlighted how Indonesia's blasphemy law has become a tool for Islamic hardliners to persecute followers of minority religions.

Meiliana, who uses one name, was sentenced to 18 months in prison last month. She was charged in May, nearly two years after her comments sparked riots in Tanjung Balai, a Sumatran port.

Her husband and two sons feared for their safety and moved to Medan, said Gomar Gultom, secretary general of the Commu-

nion of Churches in Indonesia.

He wrote on Facebook after visiting Meiliana that she was a "great person who dared to voice something that has been buried in the hearts of many people, maybe even in the hearts of some rational-minded Muslim friends."

Indonesia's largest Muslim organization, Nahdlatul Ulama, has criticized the conviction and said the conviction wasn't blasphemous. A civil society group is raising funds for an appeal.

Meiliana's ordeal began in July 2016 when she asked if the volume of the loudspeakers at her neighborhood mosque could be lowered.

Rumors spread in Tanjung Balai that she wanted to stop the five-times-a-day call to prayer. Days later mobs attacked her home and burned and ransacked at least 14 Buddhist temples.

"The police were busy dealing with the riots. But they also questioned Meiliana. She was not charged but needed to report to the police once a week for two years," said Harsono. "But the case did not go away. Pressure from Islamists made the police hand over the case to the blasphemy law office."

## Elephant tramples German tourist to death in Zimbabwe

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Zimbabwean authorities said an elephant trampled a German tourist while she was trying to take photos of it.

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority spokesman Tinashe Farawo said the woman died of her injuries hours after the trampling on Wednesday in Mana Pools National Park.

Farawo said the 49-year-old

was in a group of tourists who encountered a herd of elephants upon entering the park.

The spokesman said that "we are always asking people to stay away from wild animals; they should keep a safe distance."

Killings of locals and tourists by wild animals are common in the southern African nation, where wildlife authorities constantly struggle to contain potential contact between humans and animals.

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Deputy pinned by cow uses stun gun to get free

**AZ** HOLBROOK — A sheriff's deputy in north-eastern Arizona used a stun gun to drive off a large cow that was stepping on him in a field after he rescued a woman pinned to the ground by the mammal.

Navajo County sheriff's officials said a woman telephoned for help last week while pinned as the large black cow was continually pressing her if she moved or tried to get away.

It's believed the barking of the woman's dog may have provoked the cow, Chief Deputy Randy Moffitt said.

Deputy Vincent Palozzolo used his stun gun to get the cow to release the woman. The cow then charged Palozzolo, striking his chest and forcing him to the ground before he was able to again use his stun gun to drive away the cow.

## Six Flags offers perks for customer coffin time

**MO** EUREKA — Six contestants for a promotion at Six Flags St. Louis will compete for a \$300 prize, season tickets and other perks, and all they have to do is spend 30 hours in a coffin.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that participants chanted for the ghoulish contest will bide their time in 2-by-7-foot coffins from 1 p.m. Oct. 13 to 7 p.m. Oct. 14 at the park. The contest celebrates the 30th year of Fright Fest.

All who complete the challenge get two 2019 Gold Season passes and other park prizes. If more than one makes it to 30 hours, a drawing will determine who gets the \$300.

One more perk: Successful coffin dwellers get to keep the coffin.

## Police: Thieves target hemp, think it's pot

**VT** COLCHESTER — Police in Vermont said thieves have been taking hemp from a farm in Colchester, apparently mistaking the plant for marijuana.

Colchester police said there have been six intrusions and 12 arrests at Humble Roots Horticulture. Farmer Evan Fuller told WCAX-TV that the thieves are looking for pot but are stealing the farm's hemp and costing them thousands of dollars.

## Man finds snake after tossing garbage

**CT** HAMDEN — A Connecticut man trying to be a friend to the environment when he picked up a bag of trash got a dangerous surprise.

Police in Hamden said the man threw the bag into a trash can at his home, and the next day found a venomous copperhead snake in the can.

Assistant Animal Control Officer Mitch Gibbs said in a statement Tuesday the man is a frequent visitor to West Rock Ridge State Park.

## THE CENSUS

**\$375K**

The price paid at auction for a computer built in the 1970s that helped launch a \$1 trillion company. The fully functioning Apple-1 auctioned by Boston-based RR Auction was sold at a live sale Tuesday. RR said the winning bid came from a U.S.-based businessman who wishes to remain anonymous. The computer is one of 60 or so remaining of the original 200 designed and built by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak in 1976 and 1977 and one of 16 that still works.



CARRIE ANTUNFINGER/AP

## Angel Museum to close

Joyce Berg talks about her angel collection at The Angel Museum in Beloit, Wis. The museum's final day will be Saturday. Berg and her late husband hold a Guinness World Record with 13,165 angels. Berg, who launched The Angel Museum 20 years ago with her personal collection, said they are closing due to insufficient funds, membership, corporate sponsors and volunteers.

He noticed the trash bag near the park last week so he grabbed it and took it home to properly dispose of it. A day later he saw the snake in his trash can.

## Woman charged after child found in parking lot

**MA** EASTON — Police in Massachusetts charged a Maine woman whose 17-month old child was found alone in a shopping cart outside a Target store.

Easton police said the 27-year-old Acton woman will be summoned to court in the future to face a charge of abandonment or endangerment of a child charge. Officers responded to the Easton store about 1 p.m. Saturday for reports of an unattended toddler.

About an hour later, a man called to say the child had accidentally been left behind.

## Call about nude man leads police to victims

**GA** COLUMBUS — Police responding to a

call about a nude man running through a neighborhood in southwestern Georgia discovered three people who had been stabbed, one fatally.

WTVM-TV reported the violence occurred Monday morning in a neighborhood in Columbus.

Police Maj. J.D. Hawks said officers got a call about a person running around naked. He said the man allegedly went inside a home and stabbed three elderly people, one of whom died.

Two victims and the suspect were taken to a hospital. Police said the man will be arrested once he is released.

## \$8,000 in pottery stolen from SUV

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — A New Mexico couple said their prize-winning pottery collection worth an estimated \$8,000 is missing after their SUV was carjacked in Albuquerque.

Ben Toya, of Jemez Pueblo, told KOB-TV he was in southeast Albuquerque looking for a client to deliver some of the works when the thieves jumped in his vehicle and drove away.

He said he was looking for directions when the thieves opened the door, punched him and dragged him down the street alongside his SUV.

The couple found the vehicle the next day but it was trashed inside and 40 pieces of pottery were missing.

## Ex-fighting dog now training as police K-9

**VA** HONAKER — A 3-year-old dog named Dallas is one of the first pit bulls ever rescued from a fighting ring to train as a police K-9.

Dallas is undergoing six weeks of training to sniff out narcotics and is expected to join the force in southwest Virginia town of Honaker next month.

The Washington Post reported that in 2015, police and agents from the Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals seized Dallas and 30 other pit bulls from a compound there.

Police Chief Brandon Cassell said Honaker had long wanted a narcotics K-9, but the town couldn't afford the \$10,000-plus needed to get a highly trained dog.

A Canadian rescue group covered the training costs and donated Dallas to the police department.

## Border quirk resolved with new addresses

**MO** ST. LOUIS — A quirk in the mail delivery system that forced some rural Missouri residents living along the Arkansas and Iowa borders to have mailing addresses in their neighboring states has been fixed.

The idiosyncrasy affected a relatively small number of people but created problems and red tape when they voted, paid taxes — even when they died.

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill learned about the quirk last year and began inquiries to the U.S. Postal Service.

In a letter to McCaskill on Monday, Postmaster General Megan Brennan wrote that the issue has been resolved and those people affected are now using Missouri as their state designation.

From wire reports

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## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## House FAA bill establishes a minimum size for airline seats

By DAVID KOENIG  
Associated Press

The House voted Wednesday to direct the federal government to set a minimum size for airline seats, to bar passengers from being kicked off overbooked planes and to consider whether to restrict animals on planes.

Those and other passenger-related provisions were included in a bill to authorize Federal Aviation Administration programs for five years. The House approved the measure by a 398-23 vote, sending it to the Senate, which faces a Sunday deadline.

The FAA bill also is notable for what it not included.

Lawmakers abandoned a plan backed by airlines to privatize the nation's air-traffic-control system. And congressional negotiators dropped a proposal to crack down on "unreasonable" airline fees.

The bill includes several provisions backed by consumer groups.

■ It gives the FAA one year to set minimum measurements for airline seats and the distance between rows. Provision sponsors

said cramped planes are a safety issue during emergencies such as fires.

"People are getting larger, the seats are getting smaller, and it's just obvious that you can't evacuate the planes in the requisite time," Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., said in an interview.

■ It bars airlines from removing passengers from overbooked flights once the passengers have boarded the plane. The issue gained attention after airport officers dragged a 69-year-old man off a United Express plane last year to make room for an airline employee. Airlines still could bump people before boarding begins.

■ It directs the Transportation Department to set rules for service and emotional-support animals on planes including "reasonable measures to ensure pets are not claimed as service animals." Airlines have taken modest steps to crack down on support animals, which they say are surging in numbers and leading to incidents of biting and defecating on planes.

■ It prohibits putting a live animal in an overhead bin. A

French bulldog puppy died in the overhead bin of a United Airlines plane in March.

■ When a computer outage causes widespread delays and cancellations, the airline must say on its website whether it will help stranded customers with hotel rooms, meals or seats on another carrier.

■ It bars passengers from making cellphone calls during airline flights.

■ It creates a committee to advise the FAA on how to prevent consumers from being hit with huge and unexpected bills from air-ambulance companies.

Last year, a Senate committee approved a provision directing the Transportation Department to crack down on "unreasonable" airline fees for things like changing a reservation. But airlines and the industry's major trade group, Airlines for America, lobbied fiercely against the proposal, which they said amounted to re-regulating airline prices for the first time in 40 years. The issue was dropped last week during final negotiations.

Before that, Senate Commerce Committee Chairman



SETH WENIG/AP

The House voted to instruct the Federal Aviation Administration to set a minimum size for airline seats, a hot topic among travelers.

John Thune, R-S.D., gave up an attempt to weaken a regulation requiring that pilots have at least 1,500 hours of flying time before they can fly for airlines. Safety advocates had objected.

House Transportation Committee Chairman Bill Shuster, R-Penn., backed away from a plan to shift control of the nation's air-traffic-control system from the FAA to a private corporation. Shuster acknowledged that he didn't have the votes to pass the airline-backed provision.

The FAA's current authority expires Sunday, but Congress could pass a brief extension to give the Senate more time to consider the House-passed bill.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 28)	\$1.2021
Dollar buys (Sept. 28)	69.8319
British pound (Sept. 28)	\$1.35
Japanese yen (Sept. 28)	110.60
South Korean won (Sept. 28)	1,086.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3130/0.7616
Canada (Dollar)	1.3967
China (Yuan)	6.8835
Denmark (Krone)	6.3830
Egypt (Pound)	17.8045
Euro	\$1.1685/0.8558
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8152
Hungary (Forint)	277.01
Israel (Sheqel)	3.6094
Japan (Yen)	113.08
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3030
Norway (Krone)	8.1259
Philippines (Peso)	54.15
Poland (Zloty)	3.56
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7503
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3658
South Korea (Won)	1,112.09
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9742
Thailand (Baht)	32.44
Turkey (Lira)	5.9961

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.32
3-month bill	2.18
30-year bond	3.19

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super	E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.133	\$3.484	\$3.725	\$3.560	\$3.560
Change in price	+0.3 cents	+0.1 cents	+0.1 cents	+0.3 cents	no change
Netherlands	--	\$3.838	\$3.974	\$3.977	\$3.977
Change in price	--	+2.1 cents	+2.1 cents	+4.7 cents	no change
U.K.	--	\$3.429	\$3.670	\$3.595	\$3.595
Change in price	--	+0.1 cents	+0.1 cents	+0.3 cents	no change
Azores	--	--	\$3.668	--	--
Change in price	--	--	+0.1 cents	--	--
Belgium	--	\$3.191	\$3.479	\$3.390	\$3.390
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$3.546	\$3.381*	\$3.381*
Change in price	--	--	+0.1 cents	+0.3 cents	+0.3 cents
Italy	\$4.127	--	--	\$4.202	\$4.202
Change in price	no change	--	--	no change	no change

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.469	--	\$3.309
Change in price	--	no change	--	+1.0 cents
Okunawa	\$2.879	--	--	\$3.309
Change in price	no change	--	--	+1.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.909	--	\$3.499	\$3.339
Change in price	no change	--	+1.0 cents	no change
Guam	\$2.909**	\$3.259	\$3.499	--
Change in price	no change	no change	no change	--

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of Sept. 29 - Oct. 5

## MARKET WATCH

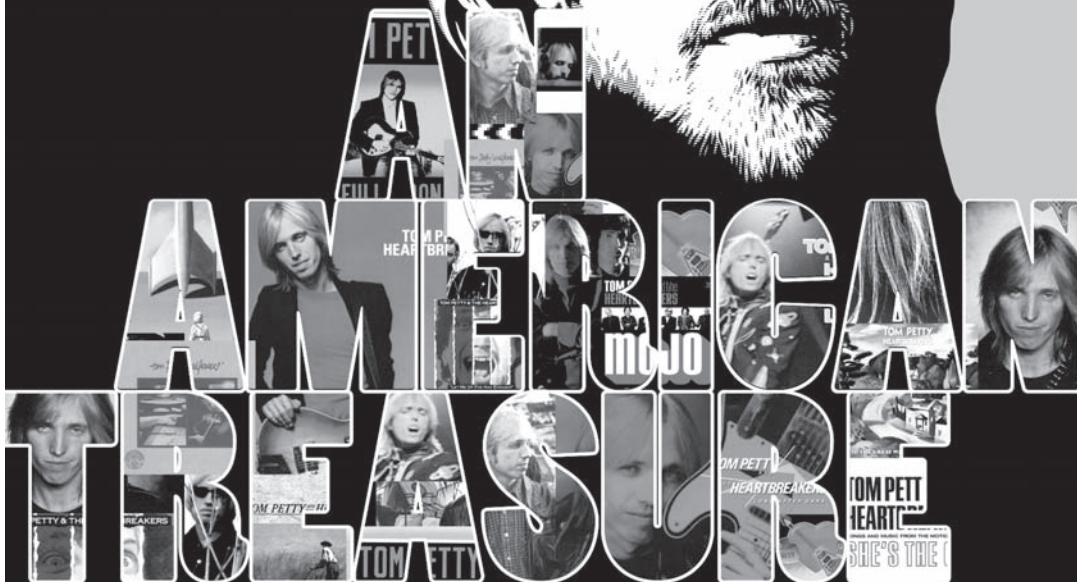
Sept. 26, 2018	
Dow Jones Industrials	-106.93
Nasdaq composite	-17.10
Standard & Poor's 500	-9.59
Russell 2000	-17.20
	1,691.61

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

## WEEKEND



Tom Petty's wife, daughter and bandmates work through their grief by compiling a career-spanning, 60-track box set that highlights the late rock icon's prolific ability as a songwriter

**Music, Page 36**

# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

## Fretting about technology not unique to present day

By BARBARA ORTUTAY  
Associated Press

When Stephen Dennis was raising his two sons in the 1980s, he never heard the phrase "screen time," nor did he worry much about the hours his kids spent with technology. When he bought an Apple II Plus computer, he considered it an investment in their future and encouraged them to use it as much as possible.

Boy, have things changed with his grandkids and their phones and their Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter.

"It almost seems like an addiction," said Dennis, a retired homebuilder who lives in Bellevue, Wash. "In the old days you had a computer and you had a TV and you had a phone, but none of them were linked to the outside world but the phone. You didn't have this omnipresence of technology."

Today's grandparents might have fond memories of the "good old days," but history tells us that adults have worried about their kids' fascination with newfangled entertainment and technology since the days of dime novels, radio, the first comic books and rock 'n' roll.

"This whole idea that we even worry about what kids are doing is pretty much a 20th century thing," said Katie Foss, a media studies professor at Middle Tennessee State University. But when it comes to screen time, she added, "all we are doing is reinventing the same concern we were having back in the '50s."

Less than a century ago, the radio sparked fears. Parents

worried about how the radio interfered with other interests — conversation, music practice, group games and reading.

Then television burst into the public consciousness. By 1955, more than half of all U.S. homes had a black and white set, according to Mitchell Stephens, a media historian at New York University.

The hand-wringing started almost as quickly. A 1961 Stanford University study on 6,000 children, 2,000 parents and 100 teachers found that more than half of the kids studied watched "adult" programs such as Westerns, crime shows and shows that featured "emotional problems." Researchers were agast at the TV violence present even in children's programming.

From the moment video games emerged as a cultural force in the early 1980s, parents fretted about the way kids could lose themselves in games as simple and repetitive as "Pac-Man," "Asteroids" and "Space Invaders."

Initially, the internet — touted as an "information superhighway" that could connect kids to the world's knowledge — got a pass for helping with homework and research. Yet as the internet began linking people together, often in ways that connected previously isolated people, familiar concerns soon resurfaced.

Sheila Azzara, a grandmother of 12 in Fallbrook, Calif., didn't worry too much about technology's effects on her children. But she, too, worries about her grandkids. "They don't interact with you," she said. "They either have their head in a screen or in a game."



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Kathy and Steve Dennis pose Aug. 29 at their home in Bellevue, Wash., with their devices, including a 1980's-era Apple II+ computer.



TRAVELPIRATES/TNS

TravelPirates is an app designed for those who want to travel and see the world on a budget.

## GADGET WATCH

### LectroFan EVO a dream for poor sleepers

By GREGG ELLMAN  
Tribune News Service

**A**daptive Sound Technologies' LectroFan EVO is designed to be a dream come true for those who have trouble sleeping.

I've always needed a TV, radio or some sound playing in the bedroom in order to fall asleep. Using a nighttime sound gadget like the LectroFan EVO has solved the problem.



The desktop speaker has 22 unique digital sounds to neutralize unwanted noises, including fan sounds, various white noises and two ocean surf sounds.

The hexagon-shaped speaker (4.4-by-2.2-by-4.4 inches) has a timer (30, 60, 90 or 120 minutes) and volume controls to adjust in 1-decibel increments from 10 times quieter to 10 times louder than fan machines, according to the company's website.

My wife tells me that my snoring is still heard, but it's way less intrusive. The company also claims that the device helps reduce startling noises, which diminishes pet anxiety. I have an older dog, and she didn't wake up during a recent rainstorm, as she has in the past.

If you don't want the sounds broadcast out loud, there's an audio jack to connect other sound sources (not included) such as headphones or a pillow speaker.

The LectroFan is also good for office use, helping you focus on work tasks by drowning out background noises.

An AC adapter, USB source and travel case are included.

Online: soundofsleep.com; \$59.95

TravelPirates is an app designed for those who want to see the world on a budget.

TravelPirates uses a combination of smart travel search technology and the human touch, resulting in low prices for destinations many consider unreachable on a fixed budget. This includes luxurious tropical getaways, trendy experiences, quick domestic city trips and even affordable private islands.

The free app is available for Android and iOS users. Its sleek, user-friendly interface provides a feed of the latest and greatest travel deals.

Everything is in real time, created by the company's team of internationally renowned deal hunters. This way you won't be looking at anything that has expired.

Users can customize the deals based on their preferences, with filters to sort your destinations, departure locations and travel period. You can also get push notifications when a match becomes available.

In the booking section, you'll see hotel and flight comparisons and a vacation booking engine, which allows users to secure deeply-discounted rates when booking a hotel bundled with a flight.

Online: travelpirates.com

Skylum software's new Photolemur 3.0 software helps consumers easily enhance images.

The software uses a simple drag-and-drop application to make adjustments almost instantly. This includes auto face enhancement, skin retouching, teeth whitening, skin and hair smoothing, sharpening, lens correction and exposure corrections. The software analyzes the image and enhances each photo accordingly. You can adjust up to 200 images simultaneously.

Photolemur 3.0 is available for Windows and Mac system for \$99 with no annual fees.

Online: skylum.com

ON THE COVER: Illustration, based on Tom Petty album covers and "An American Treasure" artwork by Shepard Fairey, by Sean Moores/Stars and Stripes.

## ITUNES MUSIC

The top 10 songs on iTunes through Sept. 25:

1. "Natural," Imagine Dragons
2. "Youngblood," 5 Seconds of Summer
3. "On My Way to You," Cody Johnson
4. "Simple," Florida Georgia Line
5. "Mercy," Brett Young
6. "In My Feelings," Drake
7. "You Say," Lauren Daigle
8. "Whatever It Takes," Imagine Dragons
9. "Weekend," Kane Brown
10. "Love Lies," Khalid & Normani

— Compiled by Stars and Stripes

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top 10 songs on Spotify through Sept. 25:

1. "I Love It" (ft. Lil Pump), Kanye West
2. "Falling Down," Lil Pump
3. "Hoppier," Marshmello
4. "Eastside" (with Halsey & Khalid), benny blanco
5. "Promises" (with Sam Smith), Calvin Harris
6. "In My Feelings," Drake
7. "In My Mind," Dynoro
8. "Lucky You" (feat. Joyner Lucas), Eminem
9. "Lucid Dreams," JAYE WRLD
10. "SICKO MODE," Travis Scott

— Compiled by Stars and Stripes

## ITUNES MOVIES

The top 10 movies on iTunes for the week ending Sept. 25:

1. "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom"
2. "Ocean's 8"
3. "Sicario: Day of the Soldado"
4. "Solo: A Star Wars Story"
6. "Tag"
7. "Deadpool 2"
8. "Gotti"
9. "Avengers: Infinity War"
10. "Adrift"



— Compiled by AP

## BOOKS

The top 10 books on Apple's iBook charts for week ending Sept. 23:

1. "Fear," by Bob Woodward
2. "Origin," Dan Brown
3. "Girl, Wash Your Face," Rachel Hollis
4. "Lethal White," Robert Galbraith
5. "Jury #3," James Patterson and Nancy Allen
6. "In Pieces," Sally Field
7. "A Simple Favor," Darcey Bell
8. "Where the Crawdads Sing," Delia Owens
9. "Night over Water," Ken Follet
10. "Crazy Rich Asians," Kevin Kwan

— Compiled by AP

## APPS

The top paid iPhone apps for the week ending Sept. 23:

1. Minecraft
2. Heads Up!
3. Bloons TD 6
4. Plague Inc.
5. Facetime
6. Scholastic
7. Earth Impact
8. Sky Guide
9. Environments
10. Geometry Dash

— Compiled by AP



## WEEKEND

## CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

## 1

## AAFES offers movies galore

Late September is prime time for new TV, but no one told the movie industry. AAFES theaters are showing four new releases this week. Whenever lots of movies are coming out, we say "there's something for everyone," but it's never been more true. There's Robert Redford's last ride, as a dapper bank robber in "The Old Man & the Gun"; "Hell Fest," a seasonally appropriate horror movie set in an amusement park; "Night School," a comedy starring Tiffany Haddish and Kevin Hart; and, for the youngsters, the animated "Smallfoot."

• **Movie reviews on Pages 25-26.**



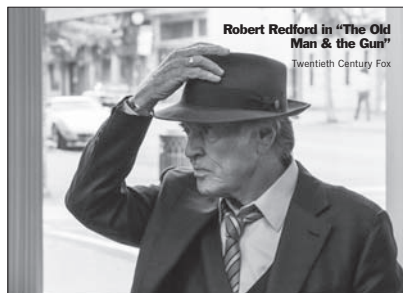
"Smallfoot"  
Warner Bros. Pictures



"Hellfest"  
CBS Films



Tiffany Haddish  
in "Night School"  
Universal Pictures/AP



Robert Redford in "The Old Man & the Gun"  
Twentieth Century Fox

## 2

## Season of TV premieres continues on AFN

The deluge of new and returning fall television continues this week. Among the new options to check out on AFN this week are "A Million Little Things," "Manifest," "One Dollar," "In Search of ...," "Single Parents" and "God Friended Me." Some old favorites returning for another season are "Grey's Anatomy," "How to Get Away with Murder," "Law & Order: SVU," "The Goldbergs," "S.W.A.T.," "MacGyver," "Hawaii Five-O," "Blue Bloods," "The Simpsons," "Bob's Burgers," "Family Guy," "NCIS: Los Angeles," "Last Man Standing," "Mom," "Murphy Brown" (yes, that same "Murphy Brown"), "SEAL Team" and "Criminal Minds."

• **All AFN shows at [tinyurl.com/psynz28](http://tinyurl.com/psynz28).**

## 3

## 'Forsaken' expansion fun for Destiny fans

Destiny video game titles get a lot of love, and deservedly so, for the many hours of gameplay they offer their devotees.

The "Destiny 2" expansion "Forsaken" is a revenge tale that takes players through many stunning landscapes reminiscent of old science fiction book covers. New gear, side quests, special effects and a new activity that fuses co-op and player-vs-player gameplay make this a Destiny title well worth gunning for — especially if you've got time to kill.

• **Full game review on Page 35.**



## 4

## Shatner boldly delivers a Christmas album

William Shatner — actor, author, seller of products, maker of albums (we'd say singer, but that's a stretch) — is at it again. The awesomely titled "Shatner Claus" is coming next month for all those who felt that what the world was missing was a Christmas album "sung" by William Shatner. Celebrities such as Henry Rollins, Brad Paisley and Iggy Pop accompany Shatner on his latest wacky voyage.

• **Listen to "Jingle Bells" from the album at [tinyurl.com/y7aknnea](http://tinyurl.com/y7aknnea).**



# WEEKEND: MOVIES

**"Barefoot in the Park"** (1967) This Neil Simon adaptation brought Redford over from the Broadway production as Paul, an uptight attorney who has just married the free-spirited Corie (Jane Fonda). It's pretty cutesy-wutesy, but the young stars have an irresistible chemistry.

**"Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"** (1969) As the roguish outlaws in the title, Paul Newman and Redford set a standard for buddy-banter and bromantic chemistry. Gibson-Glover, Clooney-Pitt and many other cinematic duos would follow their

leads. This is also the film that inspired the name of Redford's famous film institute, Sundance.

**"The Candidate"** (1972) The poster shows Redford as a glib politician blowing a chewing-gum bubble—but this is no comedy. Written by Eugene McCarthy's former speechwriter, "The Candidate" is a riveting drama about high ideals and hard reality.

Worth re-watching every four years. **"Jeremiah Johnson"** (1972) In one of his earliest collaborations with director Sydney Pollack, Redford plays the legendary mountain-man of the 1800s. The movie was a major hit, and helped establish the rugged, outdoorsy image that Redford would return to often over his career.

**"The Sting"** (1973) The Newman-Redford team returns as con men in 1936. The film was a smash hit—the 20th highest-grossing of all time, adjusted for inflation—and won seven Oscars.

**"The Way We Were"** (1973) Barbra Streisand plays a Jewish activist who falls for Redford's curbed WASP in this heart-tugging romance. The schmaltzy title song suggests a melodrama, but this is actually an intelligent, grown-up movie about grown-up problems. A high point for both stars.

**"The Great Gatsby"** (1974) Jack Clayton's swarthy, Bolshoi version of the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel turned out to be a critical and commercial dud, but it's a fairly sensitive reading that looks much better today. Redford leads a fine cast (Bruce Dern, Mia Farrow) as the charmed-yet-cursed Gatsby.

**"Three Days of the Condor"** (1975) A bookish CIA researcher (Redford) is drawn into a murderous plot within the agency and out of direction turns to a stranger (Faye Dunaway) for help. Pollack's crisp direction and Redford's earnest performance make "Condor" one of the quintessential paranoid thrillers.

**"All the President's Men"** (1976) Two Washington Post staffers, Bob Woodward (a cool, confident Redford) and Carl Bernstein (a dyspeptic Dustin Hoffman), bring down President Richard Nixon. Not even an Oscar nod for Redford, but this remains the definitive Watergate movie and a classic of '70s cinema.



## Essential REDFORD

On the eve of his retirement, a look at the venerable actor's impressive body of work

By RAFER GUZMAN ■ *Newsday*

**"U**pbate and positive" is how Robert Redford has described his next and final film, *"The Old Man & the Gun."* It features Redford as Forest Tucker, a real-life career criminal who continued to rob banks into his late 70s. Redford, who turned 82 in August, revealed recently that *"The Old Man & the Gun,"* now playing statewide and in AAFES theaters, will mark his retirement from acting.

It's hard to imagine the silver screen without Redford—after all, he's been on it for nearly 60 years. Though blessed with matinee-idol looks and a dazzling smile, Redford spent his career playing a wide range of roles, from Wild West figures to contemporary journalists. In the 1980s, he turned to directing and found success there as well, earning an Oscar for his emotionally wrenching debut, *"Ordinary People."*

For older generations, Redford is one of the last true Hollywood stars, though younger generations might know him better as the patron saint of independent filmmakers thanks to his Sundance Institute and Sundance Film Festival. On the eve of Redford's final role, here are some of the films that shaped and defined his remarkable career—as both actor and director.

Last month, Robert Redford, photographed Sept. 20, announced that he is retiring from acting, and *"The Old Man & the Gun"* will be his last film. A review of the film, which opens this weekend, was not available at press time.

CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP



Critics shrugged, but moviegoers turned it into a \$61 million hit.



**"Brubaker"** (1980) At an Arkansas prison, the new warden (Redford) goes undercover as a convict to find evidence of abuse, corruption and murder. Based on a true story, "Brubaker" marked a gritty and violent departure for its flaxen-haired star.

**"Ordinary People"** (1980) For his

directional debut, Redford chose a story about a family struggling with death and suicide. Riveting performances from Donald Sutherland, Timothy Hutton and an unexpected Mary Tyler Moore made this movie shorthand for "heavy drama," and Redford won the directing Oscar—his only competitive Academy Award.

**"The Natural"** (1984) Redford plays the fictional baseball prodigy Roy Hobbs in this gushing ode to America's national pastime adapted from Bernard Malamud's novel. It's a polarizer: You'll either swoon or snicker at the film's tone of Arthurian grandeur

(Hobbs plays for the New York Knights) and golden-hued cinematography.



The movie won seven Oscars, including best picture.

**"A River Runs Through It"** (1992) In the early years of the 20th century, two brothers bond over their shared love of fly-fishing. Redford's outdoorsy drama (he directed) helped make a star out of Brad Pitt in the role of Norman Maclean, whose memoir is the source for the film.

**"Quiz Show"** (1994) Redford directed this gripping drama about a real-life rigged television game show. It's terrific entertainment, with an excellent Ralph Fiennes as a conflicted contestant. It was a near-miss at the Oscars—four nods, no wins—but it holds a tip-top 96 percent rating at Rotten Tomatoes.

**"The Horse Whisperer"** (1998) Redford's story about a Montana horse trainer whose skills extend to women is so Redfordian (he directs himself in the title role) that it borders on parody. Still, it became a major hit.

**"All Is Lost"** (2013) After a low-profile decade or so, Redford returned to screens in this one-man drama about a sailor adrift on a wrecked boat. His near-silent performance made "All Is Lost" a critical darling and earned Redford the best actor award from the New York Film Critics Circle.



## WEEKEND: MOVIES

# Finding their voices

## 'Smallfoot's' Channing Tatum, Common on the challenge, reward of animated projects

By RICK BENTLEY  
Tribune News Service

**"S**mallfoot" is the latest project for Channing Tatum and Common as the voices for animated characters.

Before taking on the role of Migo, a Yeti determined to prove there is such a thing as a smallfoot (i.e. human), Tatum worked on "The LEGO Batman Movie," "The LEGO Movie" and "The Simpsons." For Common, before he was cast to be the Stonekeeper, the leader of the Yeti, voice work came through "The Lion Guard," "Happy Feet Two" and "The Simpsons."

The pair didn't have the opportunity to be in the recording studio together during the making of "Smallfoot," but they are hanging out in a Hollywood facility that looks like it could be part of the village in the movie.

Both Tatum and Common find working on animated projects a test of their acting skills.

"We don't get to physically embody these yetis," says Tatum. "Even though they watch how we act it out in the booth, it really is you having to trust the director and putting it all in his hands."

Common echoes the sentiments, talking about the challenge of not being able to play a scene without having to deliver dialogue. He likes the pauses he can take in live-action projects.

The way Common deals with the loss of physicality is to find the right voice for the character and depend fully on the director to make the scene work. In the case of "Smallfoot," the direction came from Karey Kirkpatrick, whose previous work includes "Over the Hedge."

"Smallfoot" presented an additional challenge for Tatum and Common as they both had musical numbers to perform. Tatum's Migo kicks off the film with "Perfection," while Common's character delivers a sobering warning with "Let It Lie." The musical part was no big deal for Common, as he's won two Grammys and an Oscar for best achievement in music written for motion pictures, original song for "Glory" for the 2014 film "Selma."

Common explains the muscles he uses to perform music and those he uses to do an animated voice are slightly different.

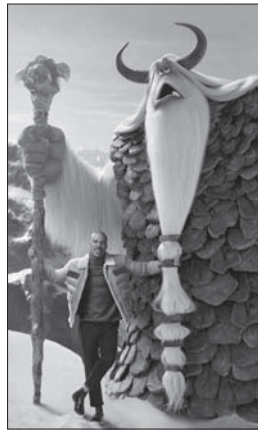
"When I rap, it's my natural voice that I use. Even when I go a little higher, I am not going way out of my range," Common says. "For the voice of Stonekeeper, I felt myself going into a much deeper range than I use. And I was using that deep voice in different ways."

Having to belt out a tune was a new experience for Tatum. The first thing he stresses is that he's not a singer. Anyone who has tracked Tatum's career knows the main muscles Tatum uses beyond acting are for dancing. He's showed off his dancing feet in such projects as "Magic Mike" and "Step Up."

Tatum has the same feelings about being called a dancer as he does being called a singer.

"I can dance and I have always danced freestyle, but I am not, like, somebody who has committed their whole life to learning the craft of dancing. I am barely count music while I dance," Tatum says. "I was gifted with the ability to move and I love to move, but I haven't devoted my life to dancing."

Common laughs when he hears Tatum beating himself up about singing. He says



Photos courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

In "Smallfoot," Channing Tatum, left, lends his voice to Migo, a young Yeti who risks his life and goes against the rules in search of a smallfoot (i.e. human). Common plays Stonekeeper, the condescending chief of the yetis.

when he heard the opening number, he was pleasantly surprised to hear how well Tatum could sing.

Tatum and Common have taken different career paths. Common's a Chicago native who launched his acting career after establishing himself as a singer, while Tatum grew up in the South where he worked as a model before landing his first acting role.

But they grew up with one thing in common: a love for cartoons. Tatum watched cartoons every morning, with his favorites being "Woody Woodpecker," "Thundercats" and "Gargoyles." Common agrees with Tatum about liking "Woody Woodpecker" but also grew up a fan of "Tom and Jerry," "Looney Tunes" and "Super Friends."

Once they both were able to go from watching cartoons to being part of them, they realized how special voice work can be. Tatum describes it as a "fantasy" job because it's the chance to play someone or something he would never be able to do any other way.

"And you are creating a fantasy for the kids. We still feel young in our minds, but we are not children anymore. And to be able to do something that invokes that connection to these youthful minds, that feeling is great to me," Tatum says.

"When I first saw myself in a movie, it blew my mind. Growing up, I would have never known I would be on a movie screen," Common adds. "Just hearing your voice coming from an animated character blew my mind again."

## 'Smallfoot' is predictable, but the journey makes it worth watching

By KATIE WALSH  
Tribune News Service

**I**f it ain't broke, don't fix it, as the saying goes. That seems to be the approach taken by the screenwriters of the new animated feature "Smallfoot." The story is actually "Bigfoot," but it hinges on a clever reversal of perspective, centering on a tribe of Yetis in the Himalayas who fear the dreaded unknown creature known to them as Smallfoot.

The mysterious beings clad their feet in leather cases with ridged soles. They carry rolls of soft white paper in zippered satchels. That's right, Smallfoot is human, and the notion of taking a storied monster like Bigfoot and making him the hero, and humans the monster, is the fun of the movie, based on the book "Yeti Tracks" by Sergio Pablos. The film is co-written and co-directed by Karey Kirkpatrick ("Over the Hedge"), while Jason Reisig co-directs, with Clare Sera, John Requa and Glenn Ficarra as co-writers.

The story itself is one we've seen before, just with a twist or



Warner Bros. Pictures

A young yeti (voiced by Channing Tatum) finds something he thought didn't exist — a human — in the animated comedy "Smallfoot."

two. Our hero, Migo (Channing Tatum), is a happy-go-lucky Yeti who loves his small snowy village so much he sings a song about the way it works in perfect harmony. Yes, you may be getting flashbacks to "Where You Are" from "Moana," or "Belle" from "Beauty and the Beast," but Migo

is far more loyally unquestioning and optimistic than his Disney counterparts. But as soon as you hear the song, we know where we're going with "Smallfoot" — a young but brave naif who loves his home will, by some turn of events, be thrust outside of his comfort zone, discover something

new, go on an adventure and question everything he's ever known. And that's exactly what happens.

Migo has a chance encounter with a smallfoot pilot who crashes lands on the mountain. He tries to tell his village, though he's rebuffed and outcast by the Stonekeeper (Common), who denies his assertion. So Migo hooks up with the secret Smallfoot Evidentiary Society, and they go hunting for evidence of small-foots. In a local village, Migo scoops up Percy (James Corden), an animal/adventure TV host who sees his own opportunity in the encounter.

Although "Smallfoot" is formulaic and predictable, what sets it apart is its willingness to dive into the themes of questioning blind faith within small communities. The Stonekeeper has great reason to keep the village isolated and psychologically controlled with myth and legend — it keeps them safe, secure and to the status quo. But there's no growth, no innovation, and Migo's father, Dorgle (Danny DeVito), keeps smashing his head

into a gong every morning because the Stonekeeper told him it makes the sun rise. It's actually a brilliant way to teach younger audiences about fake news and gaslighting at an early age.

The animated designs are gorgeous. The Yeti characters are diverse in shape, pastel color and hair designs, and their goofy yet friendly friends are set against picturesque snowy mountain landscapes and tangerine skies. It's simple, but beautiful and effective, while the village is lovingly, busily rendered with detail.

The songs, by Zendaya, who voices Meechee, and pop stars like One Direction member Niall Horan are a bit forgettable, but it's rare to see a proper animated musical feature these days, and "Smallfoot" leans into that. Tatum also turns in a charming vocal performance as the bright-eyed Migo who learns what it means to think for himself.

While "Smallfoot" follows a familiar path, it's what it does with the journey that makes it worth watching.

"Smallfoot" is rated PG for some action, rude humor, and thematic elements. Running time: 96 minutes.



## WEEKEND: MOVIES

## ‘Night School’ makes the grade, but barely

By KATIE WALSH

Tribune News Service

For years, putting feisty comic Kevin Hart across from any movie star would automatically light a fire underneath an otherwise middling comedy. He was the magic ingredient, the spice that would enliven anything. But recently, Hart has been usurped as the secret sauce in any comedy sandwich. The challenger to his throne is “Girls Trip” breakout star Tiffany Haddish, and it was only a matter of time before the two faced off in a war of quippy comebacks. But in Malcolm D. Lee’s “Night School,” co-starring Hart and Haddish, Hart is now the star who needs a wacky supporting cast to prop him up this time around.

Hart characters have become a genre unto their own. He plays men with outsized personalities, hustlers and salesmen who punch above their weight class when it comes to love interests and have a tenuous relationship with the truth. In a climactic speech in “Night School,” Hart’s character, Teddy, announces “I’m a liar. I’m a loudmouth hustler,” and it’s one of the most honest moments in his filmography.

Because we know Hart’s cinematic persona so well by now, what livens up “Night School” — aside from Haddish, who plays his supportive, yet shockingly violent teacher — is the band of weirdos that are his classmates. Lee has assembled a group of beloved comic character actors to surround Hart and offer him some fodder off which to bounce. Rob Riggle, Al Madrigal, Mary Lynn Rajsak and Ronny Malco embody a group of hilariously detailed characters that could easily carry their own spinoffs. Malco is especially funny as the conspiracy theory-spouting Jalen, who fires off couplets about the Illuminati and robots so quickly no one knows what hit them.

The crew is what carries “Night School” through the bumpy patches. The writing of Haddish’s character Carrie is particu-



In “Night School,” starring Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish, adult dropouts must attend evening classes with the slim hope they can pass the GED.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

larly inconsistent — she’s at once sweet, self-sacrificing and caring, but she’s also incredibly tough, battering her night school students with retorts, insults, tough love and sometimes even her fists and feet. You can just never quite get a handle on who her character is. But if any filmmakers have yet to consider Haddish for an action film, her powerful performance in the MMA ring with Hart is a worthy audition.

The film’s identity crisis might come from the six (six!) credited writers on the project. The pace and structure are

incredibly strange, and the flailing romance between Teddy and his fiancée Lisa (Megalyne Echikunwoke) is formulaic and bland. Hart’s on-screen romances always have the same conflict — he’s immature — and by this iteration, it’s tired.

Thank goodness for Riggle, Malco, Madrigal and Rajsak, who bring enough weird energy, bizarre asides and just plain moxie to their characters. A lot of the humor plays fast and loose with ethnic and cultural stereotypes, and it isn’t always successful. But the night school classmates are what

make the comedy work, and there are indeed some very funny moments. That’s not to say Hart and Haddish don’t bring the laughs. They do, but it’s nothing surprising or fresh, and it seems like their characters weren’t exactly written, so much as room was left in the script for the two stand-ups to riff. “Night School” makes the grade, but just barely. It still needs a little bit of remedial work.

“Night School” is rated PG-13 for crude and sexual content throughout, language, some drug references and violence. Running time: 111 minutes.

## ‘Hell Fest’

A traveling Halloween-themed amusement park becomes a literal playground of horror when a masked killer terrorizes its guests in “Hell Fest,” starring Amy Forsyth, Reign Edwards and Bex Taylor-Klaus. Directed by Gregory Plotkin, a review of “Hell Fest” was not available at press time. The slasher film is rated R for horror violence, and language including some sexual references. Running time: 89 minutes.

CBS Films



## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe

YEAR-ROUND  
ADVENTURE

Known for winter sports, Garmisch is much more than just a ski town

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

In the Bavarian Alps, it's not all about the skiing.

While the mountain town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, is a prime destination for winter sports, there is more to the area than just sliding down snow-packed slopes. Garmisch and the mountain villages around it make for great off-season long weekends. The views are spellbinding, and the hikes a refreshing escape from the daily grind.

Garmisch is a good base for exploring the Bavarian Alps and beyond. It also is home to the military's Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, an attractive boarding option for holders of military ID cards. On a recent visit, my family and I wandered the town, taking in the view. The next morning we were off to nearby Mittenwald, a small town about 10 miles south of Garmisch that is close to an excellent hiking trail.

Here are some sights you can easily reach from Garmisch:

### Leutasch Gorge

On the outskirts of Mittenwald, the hilly wooded trails that lead to the Leutasch Gorge are a great place for a day of hiking.

The walk isn't too arduous — no special equipment is needed — but there's a little bit of huffing and puffing involved. Young children can manage the walk, though there may be some griping along the way.

As with most family-friendly trails in Germany, there are places to stop for a drink and get a bite to eat if you want to take a leisurely pace. The trail leads to a spectacular 160-foot gorge. A walking bridge connects one cliff side to the other — safe yet still somehow nerve-wracking.

Access to the gorge and trails is free. A waterfall at the entrance costs a couple of dollars to see, and it's worth it. The narrow-winding path is shielded from most sunlight. You just follow the sound of crashing water. The cavern is chilly even in summer.

### Zugspitze

No visit to the German Alps is complete without heading to the top of the Zugspitze, Germany's tallest mountain, which is a 40-minute drive from downtown Garmisch. Some people choose to climb to the top solo, a dangerous day-long venture only for experienced climbers. I met one famished climber after I got to the peak via cable car (about \$50 round trip). He was eating three plates of Weisswurst and drinking three Cokes after his exhausting ascent. I rewarded my own efforts with a beer.

It's possible to go a little higher, up some craggy rocks. But the path is pretty narrow, and you'll find yourself in a fatal descent if you take the wrong step.

We skipped that part and went to one of the mountain glaciers, where even on a hot summer day you can throw snowballs. At the bottom of the mountain there's the lake known as Elbsee, which is great for swimming in the summer and hiking when it's cooler.

### Ehrwald

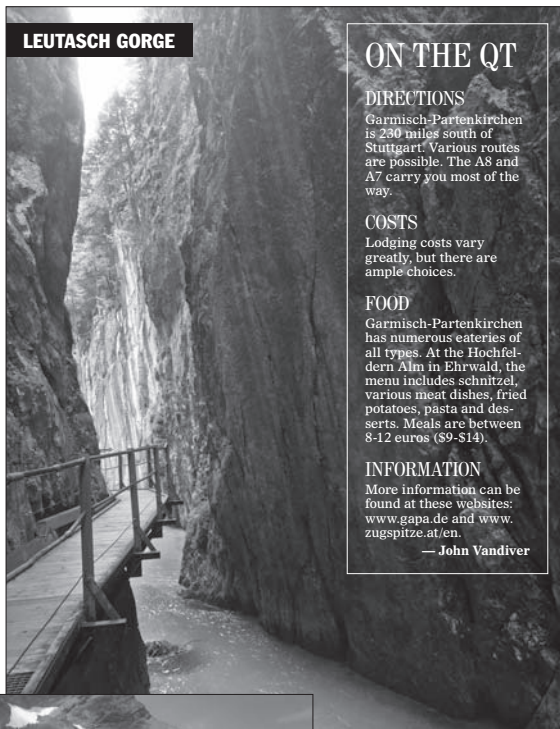
A 30-minute drive southwest of Garmisch brings you to Ehrwald, an Austrian ski town in the Tyrol mountains. The Ehrwald Alm is also a good place for hiking and mountain-biking. A cable car (\$20 for an adult ticket) gets you to a good walking point where you can explore an extensive trail network.

Along our jaunt, we stopped at Hochfeldern Alm, a little mountain restaurant where we feasted on Kaiserschmarrn — a chopped up pancake served with powdered sugar and applesauce that is a must-eat regional specialty. It was washed down with fresh milk from the local cows grazing nearby.

After eating, we carried on along the hillside past the cows and their clanging bells.

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### LEUTASCH GORGE



### ON THE QT

#### DIRECTIONS

Garmisch-Partenkirchen is 230 miles south of Stuttgart. Various routes are possible. The A8 and A7 carry you most of the way.

#### COSTS

Lodging costs vary greatly, but there are ample choices.

#### FOOD

Garmisch-Partenkirchen has numerous eateries of all types. At the Hochfeldern Alm in Ehrwald, the menu includes schnitzel, various meat dishes, fried potatoes, pasta and desserts. Meals are between 8-12 euros (\$9-\$14).

#### INFORMATION

More information can be found at these websites: [www.gapa.de](http://www.gapa.de) and [www.zugspitze.at/en](http://www.zugspitze.at/en).

— John Vandiver



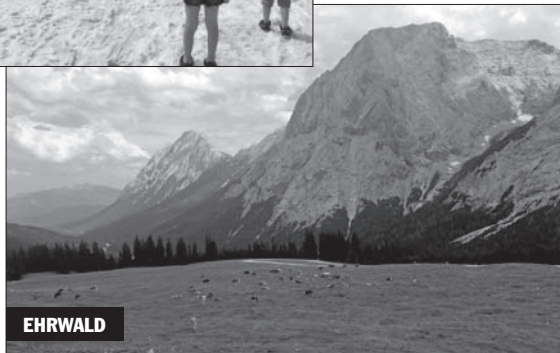
From top: The trails near Leutasch Gorge near the Bavarian town of Mittenwald include a walkway that leads to a waterfall.

Visitors to Zugspitze, Germany's tallest mountain near Garmisch-Partenkirchen, gear up to go sledding. The glaciers provide a little snow, even in the summer.

Ehrwald Alm features many hiking trails in the Tyrol mountains. The Austrian range is a 30-minute drive from Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Photos by John Vandiver/Stars and Stripes

### EHRWALD



## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

## 10 ways to die while traveling in Iceland

**G**azing into a volcanic crater lake, leaping across a tectonic fissure in the earth's crust, descending into the magma chamber of an extinct volcano—Iceland is filled with unforgettable experiences. This beautiful country is packed with tourist-attracting natural wonders: waterfalls, glaciers, rivers, fjords, cliffs, thermal springs and geysers.

Though magnificent, this landscape is perhaps the most dangerous place in Europe. Several times a year, Icelanders are captivated by a full-scale land and helicopter search for travelers sucked out to sea by a wave, separated from their snowmobile tour group or lost in the wilderness. Iceland is more popular than ever, but it shouldn't be the last trip you ever take. Before you visit, consider these 10 ways a trip to Iceland could put you in danger.

**1. Wind:** The signature feature of Icelandic weather is wind. For Icelanders, good weather means no wind or a light breeze; bad weather means it's blowing hard. Even in summer, you'll likely encounter winds that are uncomfortable or dangerous to walk or drive in. When picking up my rental car on my most recent trip, I was talked into a \$20-a-day insurance supplement for "wind damage and sand storms." And later, while I was standing on a rock to snap a photo, a freakish gust nearly blew me into the sea. Check the forecast on the Icelandic weather service's website. If it's windy and icy at the same time, use extra care.

**2. Slips and falls:** In winter, Reykjavik's sidewalks generally aren't cleared or salted, and the very slippery and icy Falls are common. Paths in the countryside ice over, too. Travelers visiting between De-

cember and February should pack a pair of ice cleats to strap over their shoes.

**3. Getting lost:** When traveling in less inhabited parts of the country, be prepared for the unexpected. Your car could break down or run out of gas, or you could



Rick Steves

take a wrong turn. Travel with extra clothing (even summer days can turn cold and windy) and keep your mobile phone charged. Carry a paper map as a backup. Before heading into wilderness areas, upload your

itinerary to SafeTravel.is.

**4. Waves:** Iceland's south coast has some strong waves that regularly pull unsuspecting tourists out to sea. Those breathtaking black-sand beaches can become dangerous very suddenly. Obey all signs, and stay much farther from the water than you think is necessary.

**5. Trail hazards:** There are very few ropes, guardrails or warning signs in Iceland—but if you see any, take them seriously. Step carefully, and watch out for loose stones, crevices and sharp rocks.

**6. Scalding thermal water:** The water in Iceland's geothermally active areas can be boiling hot, and the danger is often unmarked. Every year or two a tourist falls in and gets severely burned, typically in a less-visited geothermal area without fences or walkways.

**7. Avalanches:** In 1995, two avalanches in the Westfjords killed 3 people. Winter-time travelers might encounter avalanche warnings in any settled area close to a



DAVID C. HOERLEN/Ricksteves.com

steep mountain slope.

**8. Volcanoes:** On average, a volcano erupts in Iceland every three or four years. Some eruptions can be viewed from a safe distance, but others melt glaciers, let loose streams of boiling lava, give off poisonous gases or spew ash and boulders that will damage you or your car.

**9. Winter driving:** I recommend avoiding all driving outside Reykjavik and the airport area during the winter months (roughly November through March). In Reykjavik, city streets are cleared fairly well after storms. Outside the city, though, roads can be a sheet of ice for weeks at a

time, especially at higher elevations.

**10. Scenic distractions:** When exploring Iceland by car, enjoy the view safely. Iceland is great about providing generous pullouts at the best viewpoints—use them when you're tempted to look away from the road. Never stop in the road to snap a photo.

Don't let this list scare you. Iceland is a small land that packs in a lot of experiences. Get out and explore, but travel smart.

Rick Steves ([www.ricksteves.com](http://www.ricksteves.com)) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at [rick@ricksteves.com](mailto:rick@ricksteves.com) and follow his blog on Facebook.

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

## London Tattoo Convention

Tattoos are nothing new. But they've recently gone mainstream, with some surveys showing that as many as four in 10 U.S. adults sport at least one.

Even those not considering a lifetime commitment to an inked image on their skin will find much to see and do at the London Tattoo Convention, not only a show but a celebration of body art and lifestyle. The 14th edition of this event runs Sept. 28-30 at London's Tobacco Dock.

Miki Vialletto, event organizer and publisher of *Tattoo Life*, hand-picks the 400 or so international artists who take part in the convention. His lineup includes not only renowned names but plenty of rising stars in the area of body art.

Entertainment across several stages includes the fire performances of the Fuel Girls and Pyrohex, described as a mix of aerial circus and contortion with a freak show edge. Many of the musical acts play blues-tinged rock. Exhibitions explore the links between tattooing and other forms of artistic expression.

Competitions across various categories take place from 6 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday. A new category titled *The People's Choice Award* allowed the public to choose its favorite piece from 30 pre-submitted works through



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: [steves.com/blogs/europe-traveler](http://steves.com/blogs/europe-traveler)

online voting; the winner will be revealed on Sunday.

Food and drink available on site includes healthy, whole food offerings, tacos and pizzas served up by food trucks, freshly brewed coffee, liquors, craft beer and non-alcoholic offerings.

Tobacco Dock is located at 50 Porters Walk, London E1V 2SF. Visit between noon and midnight Sept. 28-29 and from noon-8 p.m. Sept. 30. Entry at the gate costs 30 UK pounds (about \$39.50) on Friday, 40 pounds on Saturday and 35 pounds on Sunday. Those under 14 enter free. Online: [thelondontattooconvention.com](http://thelondontattooconvention.com)

## Kite Festival in Scheveningen

It's not every day squids, octopuses and orcas fly over-

head—reason enough to visit the Dutch seaside resort town of Scheveningen, just outside of The Hague, where the 40th anniversary edition of its annual Vliegfeest, or Kite Festival, brightens the skies Sept. 29-30. The theme of this year's event is a sea aquarium.

More than 100 kite fliers from Holland and beyond pull the strings to this festival. Kites of note include the Megabyte; at 215 feet high and with an 82-foot span, it's described as the largest monster flier in the world. Demonstrations of free-style flying techniques, power kites and Revolution Kites are also planned. Those after a piece of the action themselves will find a variety of kites on sale. The night show, in which some of the lit-up kites might resemble an alien invasion, begins at 8 p.m. Saturday. Online: [vliegfeestscheveningen.nl](http://vliegfeestscheveningen.nl)

## Michaelis-Kirschweih in Fuert

Many of Germany's biggest folk festivals take place in spacious lots on the outskirts of towns, but not so Michaelis-Kirschweih, one of the most important annual events of the Franconian city of Fuent. This nearly 900-year-old fair takes place in the streets and squares of the city center. As this year's edition of the fair coincides with the 200th

anniversary of Fuent's attainment of a special city status, it will run four days longer than usual, Sept. 29-Oct. 14.

The longstanding event attracts fans with a combination of market stalls, rides and stands offering food and drink. Visitors can stock up on useful household items from soaps to baskets to ironing boards, ride hair-raising attractions such as the Apollo 13 or Space Party, or sample Franconian sausages, Hungarian langos, or specialties from Limoges, France.

Highlights include the tapping of the keg at 10:15 a.m. Sept. 29, fireworks at 10 p.m. Sept. 29 and Oct. 14, a night of music and jesters Oct. 4, and illuminated hot air balloons Oct. 11. The high point of celebrations, a thanksgiving parade with 3,000 participants, starts at 11 a.m. Oct. 7.

Fuent is easily reached by means of the U underground train line running from the Nuremberg Messe; the journey takes around half an hour. Online: [michaelis-kirschweih.de](http://michaelis-kirschweih.de)

## Auto-free day for cyclists and hikers

Don't put that bike away just yet—one of Germany's last road closures of the season is slated for Sunday.

The "Rad-Erlebnis Salm" sees the communities of Dreis, Salmthal, Sehlern, Esch, Riven-



vliegfeestscheveningen.nl

**Kites come in all shapes and sizes at the Vliegfeest, or Kite Festival, in the Dutch seaside resort town of Scheveningen.**

ich and Klussersrath close down a ten-mile stretch of highway between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. for bikers and hikers. Klussersrath is a community along the Moselle River roughly between Trier and Berncastel-Kues; the other towns lie along the Salm River, a left-bank tributary of the Moselle. The mostly flat route is billed as suitable for the whole family.

Local vintners and farmers, as well as local clubs and organizations, will offer regional food and drink along the roadside.

Dreis lies roughly 20 miles east of Bittburg. Online: [tinyurl.com/ybskvn3](http://tinyurl.com/ybskvn3)



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



PHOTOS BY SCOTT WYLAND/Stars and Stripes

Trattoria del Mare's covered patio is still busy at 10 p.m. on a weeknight in Pozzuoli, Italy. The restaurant serves a variety of seafood that is popular among local residents.

## After Hours: Italy

By SCOTT WYLAND  
Stars and Stripes

From the outside, Trattoria del Mare looks humble, with its wooden porch-like patio and tables with paper place mats. It hardly stands out amid a busy restaurant district in the town of Pozzuoli.

But around 10 p.m., the patio of this seafood restaurant is abuzz with patrons who fill almost every table. Inside is more elegant, with tablecloths and a relaxed ambience. This evening, however, most people dined on the patio to enjoy Italy's mild, early-fall weather.

Del Mare means "of the sea" in Italian. This restaurant serves only seafood. The single-page, bilingual menu is packed with offerings, with most dishes priced between 2 euros and 12 euros (\$2.35 and \$14).

The dishes are tasty, the portions more ample and the preparation more sophisticated than you might expect.

Blueberry marinated fish (8 euros), julienne cuttlefish (8 euros), seared tuna with apple cider vinegar (11 euros) and grilled octopus in balsamic vinegar (12 euros) are among the menu items.

I ordered an octopus potato salad, a jumbo honey-and-almond shrimp and a cone-shaped bag of fried anchovies that I could take home. Fried anchovies are a delicacy in Italy, and not to be mistaken for the over-salty American version.

I got a decanter of southern Italian red wine called Anglianico, which was light and flavorful. The entire meal cost 26 euros, plus a good tip for friendly service.

For those feeling adventurous, the chef prepares two pastas and a surprise seafood dish that changes daily to keep patrons guessing. I passed on the mystery meal this time because trying a new restaurant in Italy seemed adventure enough.

Wyland.scott@stripes.com  
@wylandstripes



Octopus salad is part of the diverse seafood menu at Trattoria del Mare restaurant in Pozzuoli, Italy.

## TRATTORIA DEL MARE

Location: Via Campi Flegrei 58, Pozzuoli 80078  
Hours: 6:30 p.m.-midnight Tuesday through Thursday; 7 p.m.-midnight Friday; noon-4 p.m., 7 p.m.-midnight Saturday; noon-4 p.m. Sunday; closed Monday.  
Dress: Casual  
Parking: Streetside and parking garage next to restaurant.  
Phone: +39 081 341 6055  
Web: trattoriadelmarepozzuoli.it; on Facebook at tinyurl.com/y7dsc2b2

— Scott Wyland

## Simple ingredients find richness when combined

By ELIZABETH KARMEI  
Associated Press

This summer, my sister, Mary Pat, traveled to Italy on a hike tour. One of her favorite dishes she was served there was made of local zucchini, tomato sauce, basil and fresh mozzarella. It was served to her in a generous square like lasagna, but instead of noodles, the layers were made up of thinly sliced zucchini.

Once she got home, she started experimenting and re-creating what she ate from taste memory. It sounded so simple, yet it was delicious, that I had to try it. I have now made it three times.

This is one of those dishes where the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. This dish has the simple flavors of Italy — tomatoes, basil and mozzarella — layered between thin slices of zucchini, but the end result is positively addicting. It is savory and just rich enough to be craveable, but light enough that you feel like you are eating a dish straight from the garden.

My sister urged me to add tomato paste to the crushed tomatoes to make the sauce thicker and more flavorful. I added some seasonings to complement the vegetables, including granulated garlic and herbs de Provence. If I had had a mixture of Italian seasonings, I might have used that instead. Either will work equally as well as they both typically include basil, rosemary and



ELIZABETH KARMEI/AP

**Zucchini Gratinato is savory and just rich enough to be craveable.**

thyme. I also added shaved Parmesan cheese to each layer as it adds a "meatiness" or umami that contributes to the savory nature of the dish.

Before you assemble the dish, you must slice the zucchini with a mandoline and salt it to remove the excess moisture. The slicing of the zucchini and prepping it for the casserole is a little time consuming, but it is well worth the effort. It helps reduce the amount of liquid that cooks out but it also seasons each slice of zucchini, making for a perfectly balanced dish.

It can be made in advance and baked just before serving, or make it and re-heat it.

## MY SISTER'S ZUCCHINI GRATINATO

Servings: 9  
Start to finish: 2 hours  
Special equipment: Mandoline or V-slicer

## Ingredients

3-4 large zucchini  
1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 cup unseasoned crushed tomatoes  
3 tablespoons tomato paste  
½ teaspoon herbs de Provence or Italian seasoning  
½ teaspoon granulated garlic  
½ teaspoon coarse salt  
½ teaspoon ground black pepper  
¾ ounce fresh basil or one large sprig  
1 large ball of fresh mozzarella, about 1 pound  
2 ounces fresh Parmesan cheese, shaved with a vegetable peeler

## Directions

Clean and trim zucchini — you can use a combination of yellow squash and zucchini if you like.

Using a mandoline or a v-slicer, slice all the zucchini into thin rounds. Sprinkle with kosher salt as you fill a colander with the rounds. Let sit for 30 minutes.

Run cold water over the salted zucchini slices for several minutes and toss the zucchini with your hands to make sure all layers are rinsed. Wrap the rinsed zucchini in clean kitchen towels to dry and drain.

Meanwhile, mix crushed tomatoes with the tomato paste, herbs, salt and pepper. This will

be your tomato sauce for the layers. Reserve one cluster of leaves for garnish and cut the rest of the fresh basil leaves into chiffonade or tear into pieces and set aside. Slice the fresh mozzarella into slices and squeeze between paper towels to absorb excess moisture. Tear into pieces.

Preheat the oven to 400 F and assemble the dish.

Begin the layering process by coating the bottom of a 9-by-9-inch baking dish with olive oil. Lay down the squash in an even layer about 3 deep and make sure the layer is even. Spoon one-third of the tomato sauce on the squash and spread evenly. Scatter the basil, a third of the mozzarella and a third of the parmesan cheese over the squash. Repeat with the remaining squash, dividing it between 2 layers. The top of the zucchini gratin should be the tomato sauce, basil and cheese.

Cover the casserole with foil and bake for 15 minutes covered at 400 F.

Remove the foil and reduce the oven temperature to 350 F. Continue baking for another 45 minutes or until bubbly and the cheese is brown. Let sit for 10 minutes and garnish with the reserved basil leaf. Cut into squares like you are cutting lasagna.

It's just as good made ahead! Make as directed and re-heat in a 325 F oven covered for 15 minutes the day you want to serve it.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

By DIANE DANIEL

Special to The Washington Post

Outside the Dackelmuseum in Passau, Germany, I dropped to the cobblestone pavement to greet its four-legged ambassadors, year-old siblings Moni and Little Seppi. The black-and-tan short-haired dachshunds sniffed me, then Little Seppi reached up to gently lick my face.

A kiss so soon? I felt special, though I'm guessing I was one of hundreds he'd smooched since the Dackelmuseum, or Dachshund Museum, opened in April. The 860-square-foot space pays homage to the pooch that originated in Germany and first was bred for hunting badgers. The dachshund's long snout and body, as well as its short legs and thick, powerful paws, were well suited for ferreting badgers out of their tunnels. These days, the breed is a popular pet in many European countries and was ranked 13th in the United States last year by the American Kennel Club. Even before the debut of the world's first museum devoted to the wonders of the wiener dog, the quirky attraction had garnered much media attention. The museum sports some 4,000 pieces of wienerville and an unrivaled dachshund-themed gift shop. I learned of it because my Facebook page filled up with links from friends who know I go bonkers for the breed. In one of my early baby photos, I'm being kissed by the family dachshund, Schnapps. Since then, I've shared my life with eight other lowriders and fostered even more. I am currently houseless, but my devotion to the diminutives has not diminished.

Since Passau, an attractive historic city in southeastern Germany, is only a day's drive from my home in the Netherlands, I put a visit on my shortlist. Then a friend mentioned the Teckel Hotel, run by a Dutch couple in the Austrian Alps devoted to teckels, the Dutch word for dachshund. This being only a few hours southwest of Passau, my teckel tour was on. (Alas, I didn't have time to squeeze in a side trip to Posh Teckel, a Berlin bar and music club run by dachshund owners who also organize wiener-dog walks.)

In the baroque center of Passau, situated along the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers, it's easy to spot the Dackelmuseum during opening hours. Co-owners Seppi Kuebelbeck and his longtime partner, Oliver Storz, who arrived during my visit, adorn the exterior with dachshund-shaped benches, watering cans and more. On nice days you're likely to find one or both of the men, often with Moni and Little Seppi, sitting outside in their knee-length lederhosen chatting up passersby, of which there are many. Passau, a main stop on the European river cruise circuit and a starting point for many cycling tours, hosts more than 1 million tourists a year.

"People, especially Americans, will send us emails before they go on a river cruise and ask if we'll be open and if we'll be there, but most of all if the dogs will be there," Storz said with an amused look. "I can't believe we're like celebrities, but if the dogs are here, it's like an audience with the pope. They kneel down and kiss them and sometimes go on their backs." (For the record, I did not go on my back.)

Some visitors show up wearing dachshund-themed clothing and jewelry, and one New Yorker arrived with her travel mate — a silhouette cutout of her dachshund.

Then she asked, "Can I get your autograph so I can show my dachshund who I'm home?" Storz said and the co-owners laughed at the memory.

But don't think they're mocking their customers — they're right there with them.

When the two started dating 21 years ago, Kuebelbeck had a long-haired dachshund and initially went on her backside to Storz, but grew to love him. Moni



The Altstadt (Old Town) section of Passau, a historic city in southeastern Germany situated along the Inn (shown here), Danube and Ilz rivers. It's a main stop on the busy European river cruise circuit.



PHOTOS BY SELINA KOK/For The Washington Post



And Little Seppi are the couple's third generation of dachshunds.

Through the years, the men, who are both medal-winning master florists and once owned a shop together, collected dachshund memorabilia during their travels and ended up with several hundred pieces.

"Only beautiful items of good quality," Kuebelbeck noted. Nothing too kitschy."

A few years ago, after Kuebelbeck broke his foot and Storz was hospitalized with a burst appendix, they decided to shutter the flower shop and open a less-stressful business selling classic Bavarian souvenirs, such as dachsel doodads on the side.

The Teckel Hotel, in a ski area in the Alps, caters to dachshunds and their owners. Teckel is Dutch for dachshund.

Left: Dackelmuseum owners Oliver Storz, left, and Seppi Kuebelbeck, with their dachshunds Moni, left, and Little Seppi. "Only beautiful items of good quality are on display," Kuebelbeck says. "Nothing too kitschy."

"We discovered from our international travelers that the dachshund is really popular all over the world," Storz said. "So we started to increase that collection and had a 50 percent turnover of dachshund items every day."

They found a spot for a bona fide dachshund museum and gift shop. Thanks to some early publicity in Europe, the founder of the Belgian punk rock band Les Teckels reached out to donate about 3,500 items.

"He came with a van completely full, with 60 banana boxes and each of the dachshunds wrapped in paper," Storz said.

They've since picked up more donations, including a collection of 2,000 items. "It's mostly from elderly people who want to clean out their lives," Storz said. We've had some really nice meetings."

Other items arrive unsolicited. "Every day we get parcels at the shop. Sometimes they're addressed only to 'Dachshund Museum, Passau, Germany.'"

But Kuebelbeck and Storz are not just amassing inventory, then sitting on their haunches. They've done a spectacular job of arranging and displaying dachshund items and information, including basics on

## KNOW &amp; GO

## WHERE TO STAY

**Hotel Residenz Passau**  
Fritz-Schäffer-Promenade, Passau, Germany  
011-49-851-989-020, residenz-passau.de  
This historical hotel on the Danube River features rooms from \$130, and Dackelmuseum weekend packages.

## Teckel Hotel

Breitlahneweg 298, Mayrhofen, Austria  
011-43-676-334-4676, teckelhotel.com  
Open June 1 to Oct. 15 and Dec. 15 to April 15. (Called Chalet Amadeus during winter, but dachshunds welcome year round.) Features alpine decor dotted with dachshund doodads and amenities. Doubles from \$150; fee includes up to four dachshunds. (Other breeds allowed only if they're with a dachshund family.)

## WHAT TO DO

**Dackelmuseum**  
Grosse Messergasse 1, Passau, Germany  
011-49-851-30439, dackelmuseum.de  
Open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily April through December. Open by appointment in March. Admission, \$5.80; students \$3.50; free for children 12 and younger, and for dogs, who are allowed indoors. (The museum is organizing a dachshund parade, which is scheduled for Oct. 3.)

## INFORMATION

- tourism.passau.de
- mayrhoefen.at
- travel-germany

the subtypes of the breed (smooth, long-haired and wire-haired), famous dachshund owners (Picasso, Warhol, Elizabeth Taylor, various royals, and even a young John F. Kennedy), dachshunds in music, sport, art, toys, books, Christmas decorations and more (so much more). One exhibit is devoted to Waddi, the sausage-dog symbol of the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



SELINA KOK/For The Washington Post

Esmeralda, a 2-year-old wire-haired dachshund from Moscow, enjoyed yappy hour at the Teckel Hotel after a day that included hiking to a glacier and riding a gondola.

## FROM PAGE 30

The afternoon I visited, I ran into Barb Perez from Annapolis, Md., who had wandered in after spotting Kuebelbeck sitting outside with Moni and Little Seppi. "I'm on a river cruise and was spending today walking around town when I saw the dogs," she said. "This place is adorable and so well done. I had no idea. I'm a huge dog lover."

Perez has two beagles and a basset hound/Yorkshire terrier mix. "Everyone thinks he's a wire-haired dachshund," said Perez, swiping through her photos to show Storz and me the unusual resemblance. Before departing the gift shop with a museum magnet and a hot-pink bobblehead of a wiener dog, I checked out the guest book, signed by dachsie devotees from more than 50 countries and half the states in the Union. The next day, armed with a stack of Dackelmuseum brochures to take to the Teckel Hotel, I headed down to the mountain resort town of Mayrhofen in the western Austrian region of Tyrol, an hour from Innsbruck.

I was greeted with a five-bark salute by Penny, the wire-haired matriarch (along with sister Pip), but was disappointed to find an empty lawn — until I learned that all the hounds were out hiking. Of course.

The 15-room hotel, which is a compact and comfortable ski lodge in the winter (teckels are welcome year-round), is the dachshund's delight in the summer. Owners Eric and Anneliese van den Broeke have gone to great lengths to satisfy canine and human customers, adding amenities such as a doggy pool, washing tub, bowls of water everywhere, secure play areas inside and out, and comfy chairs all over. Rooms come equipped with a dog bed, bowl and breaded biscuits, and dogs are even allowed at the breakfast table.

The longtime dachshund owners bought the hotel last year and opened in July 2017. As a joke, they'd posted a note to a dachshund Facebook group suggesting maybe they should turn the place into a destination for teckels.

"We got around 1,000 reactions from people saying they'd love to come and when could they book?," said Eric, who was there with 1-year-old Penny during my stay. "It was crazy. So we rushed to open in the summer instead of waiting for ski season."

The interior is furnished in regional alpine style, with dashes of art dachso, including paintings, lamps and the same benches found at the Dackelmuseum.

## RESTAURANT DIRECTORY



## GERMANY



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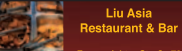
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## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Pacific

Beyond  
the  
fear

Swim, rappel, jump or hike to get through canyons on a tour in Gunma prefecture

By CATLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

About a half-hour into my canyoning tour in Japan's mountainous Gunma prefecture, I was conquering fears I never thought I'd face.

Canyons, an outdoor adventure company that operates out of several locations in the Kanto region, allows its guests to plunge, quite literally, into Japan's natural beauty — and, sometimes, head-first.

If you don't know what canyoning is, you're not alone. Before my excursion, I'd never heard of the sport, but assumed it had something to do with rock climbing. As it turns out, I was half right.

Canyoning — more commonly known as canyoneering in the United States — is an outdoor sport in which individuals explore and climb through rock canyons via a variety of methods, including swimming, rappelling, jumping or hiking.

And explore, we did.

For my trip, I opted to explore Fox Canyon, which Canyons suggests for beginners. The tour, which lasted a little over two hours, consisted of wading and floating down sections of the Tone River in a deep canyon surrounded by greenery.

Before heading out, Canyons had us suit up with their gear, which included wetsuits, helmets, gloves, life jackets and swim shoes. All canyoneers need to bring are optional swimsuits for underneath the wetsuits and towels to dry off with after.

As my group and I approached numerous waterfalls along the way, our guides would instruct us on how to slide down each one safely to continue with our tour. Wildlife was all around us, with birds chirping in the trees above and fish swimming along-side us.

As we made our way deeper into the canyon, the waterfalls became steeper. It was thrilling to fall with the water into deep, refreshing pools below.

Our tour guides encouraged us to try new positions while sliding down the waterfalls with deep pools at the bottom — like the aptly named Superman pose, which sends canyoneers head-first down the waterfalls into the clear — but chilly — water. At the encouragement of the other members in my group, I even jumped off a few cliffs. Ultimately, we reached the Fox Canyon's famous 20-meter waterfall — one that's so tall, canyoneers must rappel halfway down before dropping into the pool below. The fall was intimidating, but after conquering my fear, I was quite proud as I slid into the water.

In addition to the basic canyoning tours, Canyons offers whitewater rafting tours of the Tone River, as well as snowshoe tours and skiing trips during the winter.



The company also claims to have invented "snow canyoning" — which involves climbing through snow-covered mountains and sliding or sledging down steep "snow chutes" dug into the thick snow.

Once canyoneers complete their adventures, Canyons rewards the tour participants with a spread of food and beverages back at the company's headquarters in Minakami. As I bit into a 1,200-yen hamburger straight off the grill, I felt for a second like I was back home in the States again. The small restaurant there also offers a cash bar, barbecue options starting at 2,000 yen and sandwiches and wraps.

The experience turned strangers into friends and by the time we packed up to leave, my co-canyoneers and I were exchanging phone numbers and planning future adventures. We hope to come back to Minakami for another tour next year.

As my canyoning tour ended at the headquarters, I left in a van with my group from Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and others left in their cars. I slept well that night and couldn't help but reflect on the fears I'd overcome and how I'd jumped all in while enjoying Japan's beautiful landscape.

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Twitter: @CatlinDoornbos

## ON THE QT

## DIRECTIONS

Canyons has several base camps located in the Kanto region, all within an hour or two of Tokyo. In Tokyo prefecture, Canyons offers tours in the Okutama region. In Gunma prefecture, the company operates in Minakami and Agatsuma.

## COSTS

Costs vary by excursion. A half-day canyoning tour through Fox Canyon is 9,500 yen, about \$85.

## FOOD

Food is available for purchase at the company's base camp after each excursion.

## INFORMATION

The canyoning season runs April through October. For tour packages offered at each location, and information on seasonal operation, visit [www.canyons.jp](http://www.canyons.jp).

— Catlin Doornbos

**Stars and Stripes reporter Catlin Doornbos rappels down a 20-meter waterfall before dropping into the water on a Canyons tour. Canyoning encompasses many forms of traveling through canyons, including climbing, swimming, rappelling and jumping.**

Photos courtesy of Canyons



Canyons also offers whitewater rafting excursions throughout Japan. In this photo, three groups of rafters from Yokosuka on an MWR trip in June float down the Tone River among the mountains in Gunma prefecture.

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Pacific



**Above:** The Hiroshima-style okonomiyaki is the real star of the show at Okinawa City's Red Helmet izakaya.

**Right:** Signatures from Hiroshima Toyo Carp players who have visited Red Helmet over the years decorate the izakaya inside and out.



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

## After Hours: Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

**T**ucked away in a sleepy residential neighborhood in Okinawa City is Akai Helmet, a spacious and trendy traditional Japanese izakaya opened in honor of the Hiroshima Carp, one of the most popular teams in Nippon Professional Baseball. The restaurant's name, which translates to "Red Helmet," is a direct reference to the team's colors and the headgear sported by players during their appearances at bat.

Although located more than 600 miles from the Carp's hometown, Akai Helmet's baseball theme isn't entirely out of left field. The team has held spring training on Okinawa since 1982, and as a result has a large local following on the island. According to Akai Helmet's staff, the izakaya is even a regular hangout for Carp players during the winter months.

Once inside, diners are led past player autographs covering nearly every bit of restaurant — walls, balls, pictures and signs. A red samurai suit of armor stands watch over the cash register, the iconic Carp "C" adorning its helmet.

The restaurant's menu is entirely Japanese, which might be difficult for some English-speaking patrons — so be prepared to come armed with a smartphone app or a friend to help to translate.

Akai Helmet serves up a variety of regional delicacies from across Japan, all designed for family-style sharing. A variety of appetizers and salads — include kimchi, Japanese pickles and edamame — range in price from 300 yen (about \$2.60) to 700 yen. I tried the Caesar salad (700 yen), which comes topped large chunks of bacon, an egg and shredded cheese. It wasn't spectacular, but it was still as good as any other to be found on the island.

Fried items, like Japanese-style fried chicken, known as karaage (480 yen), and fried prawns (750 yen) are also available. The karaage was perfectly crispy on the outside while succulent on the inside, and

## AKAI HELMET

**Location:** 1 Chome-14-16 Hiyaogon, Okinawa-shi, Okinawa-ken 904-2173.

**Hours:** Open Tuesday through Sunday; closed Mondays. Tuesday through Thursday, the hours are 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday and Saturday, the hours are 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday, hours are 6 p.m. to midnight.

**Prices:** Small menu items start at 300 yen.

**Dress:** Casual

**Information:** 098-998-1857; Online: s-g.jp/akaheru

— Matthew M. Burke

also came with a small salad topped with carrot dressing.

Akai Helmet touts its Hiroshima-style okonomiyaki, a type of kitchen-sink savory Japanese pancake cooked on a griddle, as its signature dish. Hiroshima-style okonomiyaki differs from other regional variations of the dish due to its use of noodles and cabbage, as well as the way in which the dish is assembled.

Diners can choose either Hiroshima noodles, or opt for a local twist with Okinawan noodles. Hiroshima noodles are similar to those found in yakisoba, while Okinawan noodles are slightly thicker. Patrons can also order the pancake with meat (700 yen, or about \$6.50), seafood (1,450 yen), or mochi and cheese (930 yen).

If you want to watch the chefs craft this iconic dish, ask for seating at the bar for a front-row view of the action.

Akai Helmet's okonomiyaki is massive and delivered to the table sizzling on a skillet. I chose Hiroshima-style noodles for my okonomiyaki, which had a crunchier exterior and came filled with vegetables. The dish was topped with a traditional tangy okonomiyaki sauce. The taste of the okonomiyaki was average overall, which probably says a lot about its quality.



**The pork and bean sprout chun-chan yaki at Okinawa City's Red Helmet izakaya was another sweet and tangy standout.**

The highlight of my meal at Akai Helmet was the pork and bean sprout chun-chan yaki (580 yen) — a sweet and tangy hot pot-style dish featuring vegetables and meat topped with miso sauce that's a staple of Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. The restaurant serves a few other varieties of chun-chan yaki as well, including chicken (600 yen), skirt steak (980 yen) and oyster (900 yen).

With all the food on offer, diners are bound to get thirsty. Akai Helmet's drink selection contains a wide variety of alcoholic beverages, such as draft beer (380 yen) or awamori (upwards of 900 yen), Okinawa's famous local liquor. Non-alcoholic drinks (400 yen and up) are also available.

Akai Helmet's tasty and affordable fare, served up in a comfortable and welcoming environment, offers the perfect opportunity to try a wide assortment of Japanese regional cuisine not normally found in Okinawa. At the end of your meal, perhaps you too will be singing the praises of Akai Helmet with a rousing rendition of the Hiroshima Carp's fight song: "Carpu! Carpu! Carpu! Hiroshima! Hiroshima Carpu!"

burke.matt@stripes.com

## Spices give lentil soup a needed kick

America's Test Kitchen

Small red lentils are one of our favorite legumes; they do not hold their shape when cooked but break down into a creamy, thick puree — perfect for a hearty, satisfying soup.

Lentils are popular in quick-cooking soups because of their short cooking time and the fact that they don't require soaking. The mild flavor of the lentils did require some embellishment, which we achieved thanks to curry powder and fresh ginger. Sautéing the curry powder with garlic and the ginger before adding the lentils and the broth was key, as it intensified and deepened their flavors.

Chopped fresh tomato enlivened the soup and added some complexity. Do not substitute brown lentils for the red lentils here; brown lentils have a very different texture.

## CURRIED RED LENTIL SOUP

Servings: 4

Start to finish: 45 minutes

## Ingredients:

1 cup red lentils, picked over and rinsed  
4 cups vegetable broth  
2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
1 onion, chopped fine  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger

1 tablespoon curry powder  
1 large tomato, cored, seeded, and cut into ¼-inch pieces  
Salt and pepper  
2 tablespoons minced fresh cilantro  
½ cup plain yogurt

## Directions:

Microwave lentils and 2 cups broth in bowl until lentils are nearly tender and most liquid is absorbed, about 8 minutes.

Meanwhile, melt butter in Dutch oven over medium heat. Add onion and cook until softened, about 5 minutes. Stir in garlic, ginger and curry powder and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds.

Stir in microwaved lentil mixture, tomato and remaining 2 cups broth and simmer until lentils are very tender and flavors meld, about 15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Spoon individual portions with cilantro and dollop with yogurt.



DANIEL J. VAN ACKERIE, AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

**Curried Red Lentil Soup** benefits from the red lentils' texture and short cooking time.



## WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



# From bean to bar

In couple's California retail store,  
see how chocolate bars are crafted

By AMY SCATTERGOOD  
Los Angeles Times



Husband-and-wife team Corey and David Menkes, right, make their own chocolate from raw beans, producing award-winning bars of single origin chocolate.

At top, David Menkes tests a chocolate from Ghana while it churns, and inset, Corey Menkes picks cracked beans from the Ghana batch. Above: David Menkes puts the Ghana chocolate onto a particle distributor.

PHOTOS BY MARIA ALEJANDRA CARDONA,  
LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS



**W**e've become accustomed to restaurants with open kitchens, coffee shops with on-site roasters, taquerias where you can see the tortillas being made — but how about a shop where you can watch your chocolate go from bean to bar? That's the case at LetterPress Chocolate's new retail shop in Beverlywood, Calif., where you can see the entire bean-to-bar process in the open 1,800-square-foot location.

Husband-and-wife team David and Corey Menkes founded their company in 2014, making micro-batches of single origin chocolate in their two-bedroom apartment. After their operation outgrew their home, they moved into a nearby shared commercial kitchen and eventually took over the space. That location, in Beverlywood, just opened as their first retail chocolate store. The couple are still the Los Angeles company's only employees, making 4,000 bars a month from start to finish on the premises.

The cozy storefront is decorated with the company's namesake, made from reclaimed woodblock type, and paneled with reclaimed pallet wood. You can buy bars of chocolate (\$10-\$18), wrapped by hand and decorated with wrappers that David designed using a 1920s-era South American air mail stamp as a prototype.

David is a former graphics designer and both he and Corey are docents at the International Printing Museum in Carson. (That design background came in handy with the ancillary merchandise, which includes T-shirts, made and printed in Los Angeles, and messenger bags made from the burlap sacks the cacao beans arrive in.)

The entire operation is on display: bags of raw cacao beans, which the couple source from Central and South America, the Caribbean and Africa; the roaster, the proofer, where the roasted beans rest overnight; the winnower and vibratory sorter, both custom-made by a Santa Barbara chocolatier, where the beans are cracked and arranged; the huge melanger, where the beans are ground into liquid; the refrigerator, where the blocks of chocolate are aged for at least a month; the tempering machine, where the chocolate is tempered, or heated and cooled to control its structure; the table where the chocolate is injected (with a veterinary syringe) into molds; and the table where the bars are hand-wrapped and packaged.

"In L.A., there's no metric for what we do," David said one recent morning, as he checked on the 75 pounds of liquid chocolate spinning in a DCM 100 melanger in the production room. An operation like LetterPress, which makes chocolate from start to finish by hand, is a rarity, and it's one of the reasons the Menkeses will be hosting tours.

Also in the works is an unusual beverage menu — no hot chocolate, but rather drinks built with cacao juice, the liquid from the pulp of the beans. It's heady stuff that tastes not at all of chocolate, but a little like a fruity variation of coconut water.

The juice will be served with sparkling water or ginger beer and made into iced blended drinks. It's something to drink with the bars of Ashanti chocolate from Ghana, Costa Esmeraldas chocolate from Ecuador or the award-winning Ucayali chocolate from Peru.

LetterPress is also making bars with air-popped amaranth ("Imagine an adult Nestle Crunch bar," says David), sea salt and Maya Mountain chocolate from Belize.

As Corey wraps bars by hand in the production room behind him, David breaks up chocolate into little tasting cups at the front counter. The chocolate is deeply aromatic, bright with notes of citrus and fruit, given depth with layers of earth and caramel, and none of the bitterness that too often saddens dark chocolate.



## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



# Fun, until it's not

Eye-catching visuals, new missions make for a good time, but 'Forsaken' starts to feel stale after a while

BY CHRISTOPHER BYRD

Special to The Washington Post

**T**he games in the Destiny series have always aspired to keep players busy not for hours or weeks, but months on end. When the first game launched in 2014, it appeared on track to accomplishing its mission. (Indeed, there was a running joke on Eurogamer about the number of articles devoted to Bungie's interplanetary shooter.)

Despite the fact that "Destiny" came in for a critical drubbing due to its patchwork story, it supported a community that appeared quite content running through its various activities repeatedly to acquire rare loot — exotic weapons or armor. Last year's "Destiny 2" launched alongside much more positive reviews, but failed to produce the same type of long-term buzz as its predecessor. (Some faulted the game for the distribution of its rarer items and wondered if the developers were trying to steer players into spending money on loot boxes.)

Over the course of Destiny's life span, Bungie has proven itself adept at creating major expansions that put out a siren's call to lapsed players. "Destiny" had "The Taken King," which proved that the developers could take a coherent, if ulti-

mately forgettable, story and now "Destiny 2" has "Forsaken." The new expansion pulls the classic shake-up-the-franchise move of knocking off a well-known character to inject a semblance of urgency into the narrative.

"Forsaken's" campaign mode begins beneath the purple skies of the Prison of Elders where you and two other Guardians (the game's good guys) attempt to quell a prison uprising. After things go calamitously south for one of your comrades, your Guardian sets out on a path of retribution. Though this revenge tale builds to a predictable reversal of fortune at the end, it's told with breezy economy. Try as I might, I failed to spot any promising new howlers to compete with "Destiny's" infamously cheesy dialogue. (My cousin, with whom I played through most of the game, is quite fond of quoting one of the more choice lines from "Destiny 2": "Back off, you ugly piece of work.")

Most of "Forsaken's" missions take place in a section of the asteroid belt known as the Tangled Shore, a new addition to Destiny's many stunning landscapes. Roaming through the area with AV Club contributor Reid McCarter, I found myself in agreement with McCarter's observation that the environments recall the galactic splendors of old science fiction book covers.



(I played "Forsaken" on a PS4 Pro hooked up to a Samsung 4K QLED TV, and was impressed with the game's checkerboard rendering, which delivers a remarkably clear if not quite native 4K image.)

"Forsaken" offers some of the most spectacular light shows in all of gaming. Numerous times, as I watched projectiles whizzing through the air while Guardians deployed their "supers" or comic-book-heroesque special attacks, I couldn't help but wonder how the developers managed to cram so many effects on screen with nary a dip in frame rate.

Besides adding more of what players have come to expect from a new Destiny add-on — new gear, side quests, cooper-

**Take justice into your own hands as you venture into a new frontier filled with enemies, allies, untold mysteries and treasures waiting to be uncovered in "Destiny 2: Forsaken."**

Courtesy of Activision

ative missions and a raid — "Forsaken" introduces Gambit, a new activity that fuses co-op and player-vs-player gameplay. In Gambit, two four-player teams compete against each other over three rounds by taking on waves of AI-controlled enemies. Slaying an enemy causes it to drop a mote, a silvery triangular object, that can be picked up and deposited in a team's bank.

After a team deposits 75 motes, it's able to summon an AI-controlled boss known as a Primeval. The first team to destroy a Primeval wins the round. Complicating matters, if your character dies before banking his or her motes, those potential points are permanently lost. That said, the more motes that you bank at one time (up to 15 can be carried by a single Guardian), the more powerful an AI-controlled enemy you'll send to stand over the other team's bank. (Motes cannot be deposited as long as an enemy is standing in the vicinity of a bank.)

Furthermore, once a team has banked 25 motes, a portal opens up allowing one team member to invade the other side. Doing so allows the team's invader to

either collect additional motes by downing other players or, if the opposing team has already summoned a Primeval, to heal it.

Gambit is tailor-made for a person like me, someone who gravitates to co-op but doesn't mind a dash of player-vs-player every now and then. I enjoyed my time with it, except when I got stuck on a team whose players were more concerned with killing enemies than banking motes. Grr ...

As much as I like Gambit, I won't be playing it incessantly. I'm wary of open-ended games because of the time commitment. I'm certainly not immune to the charms of grinding for a slightly better gun but, for me, the spell inevitably fizzles and what was calming, even meditative, turns vacuous. Then, sometimes, the cycle repeats itself. So, I think of Destiny as a digital resort. Like a tourist trap, it provides a predictable, consistent experience that's enlivened by its eye-catching environments. It's all good until the feeling of stagnation sinks in.

**Platforms:** PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One  
**Online:** destinythegame.com/forsaken



More game reviews at [stripes.com/games](https://www.stripes.com/games)

# WEEKEND: MUSIC



Adria Petty opens her laptop and shares with a visitor home movie footage that her father shot in 1980.

Her face lights up as the video and film director takes in the shaky camera work, projecting childlike joy at how much fun her rock 'n' roll star dad, Tom Petty, was having on tour that year.

Adria, 44, discovered the footage — which she edited into a new video for the previously unreleased song “Keep A Little Soul” — while going through her dad’s effects after his death Oct. 2 at age 66. The song appears on a forthcoming four-disc box set mining her dad’s considerable trove of archival recordings, photos and memorabilia that have gone into “Tom Petty — An American Treasure,” scheduled for release Sept. 28.

In the nearly four-decade-old Super 8 mm film, Petty, then 28 and basking in the acclaim from his breakthrough third album “Damn the Torpedoes,” is clearly in great spirits as he revels in the rough-and-tumble glories of the life on the road, something he’d only dreamed of as a scrappy kid in Gainesville, Fla. He’s clowning around some inglorious hotel room, getting shots of himself in the bathroom mirror, then turning the camera on his Heartbreakers bandmates goofing off on a hotel balcony.

Adria then makes a confession. The abruptness of his death shocked millions of music fans, but that says nothing of the seismic quake it represented for his family, friends and bandmates.

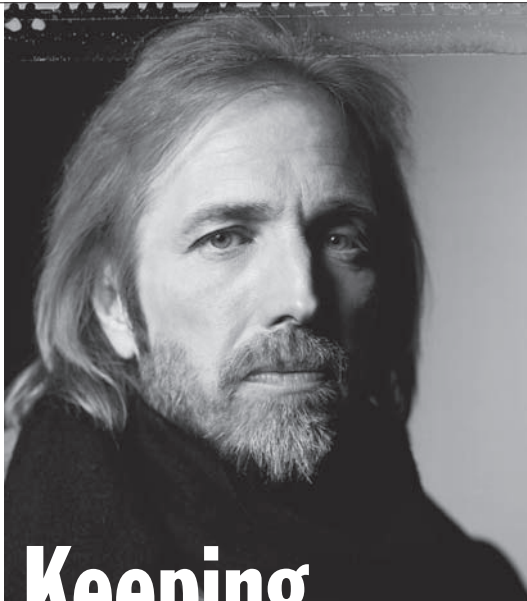
“When my dad died, and everybody was in this really hopeless place, I listened to Tom Petty Radio a lot, which I didn’t do before,” she said, referring to the channel on SiriusXM satellite radio that premiered in 2015 and features a 24/7 playlist packed with the music of Petty, the Heartbreakers, the Traveling Wilburys rock superstar juggernaut and other Petty-adjacent rock, folk and blues records the show’s namesake loved.

“Besides having the DNA, as a layman, I’m also just a huge fan, and I always had a lot of respect and awe for my dad’s craft and his authenticity,” she said, at the kitchen table of the house in Venice, Calif., she’s just about to vacate to move to New York.

“So I would listen to Tom Petty Radio and they would say ‘Tom Petty — American treasure.’ I would hear these fans calling in, and I’d be crying on my way back home,” she said. “I started thinking about what an American treasure he was as a songwriter. There was so much of the catalog that people didn’t hear in those concerts for the last 20 years that spoke to who my dad was.”

She says “Have Love Will Travel” and “Keeping Me Alive,” recorded about two decades apart and which appear on “An American Treasure,” are works that capture the “energy of my dad just sitting and strumming his guitar.”

She adds, “When he died, I realized how many conversations we had when he was



## Keeping him alive

A new box set celebrates Tom Petty with 60 songs ranging from Heartbreakers hits to unreleased tracks

BY RANDY LEWIS • Los Angeles Times



just sitting in there strumming his guitar.”

All told, “An American Treasure” encompasses 60 tracks, from cornerstone hits including “Breakdown,” “Refugee,” “Listen To Her Heart,” “Free Fallin’,” “I Won’t Back Down,” “Louisiana Rain” and “Anything That’s Rock ‘n’ Roll” to never-released songs such as “Keep A Little Soul,” “Gainesville,” “Bus to Tampa Bay,” “Two Men Talking” and “Lonesome Dave.” The new set duplicates just one track — a demo recording of “The Apartment Song” — from the 92-track, six-CD Petty box set “Playback” from 1995.

In compiling the set, Adria worked with her stepmother, Dana Petty; guitarist-songwriter Mike Campbell and keyboardist Benmont Tench, founding members of the Heartbreakers; and longtime Petty recording engineer Ryan Ulyate.

“We just want to share his brilliance with everyone,” Campbell said. “The stuff that’s left off the records is so good, and I think he would be proud to have these things come out and have people experience them. He wrote them. Some of them were finished, some weren’t. He would have liked them to have been heard.”

The set also includes a smattering of tracks by Mudcrutch, Petty’s early-’70s Florida band that preceded and included core members of the Heartbreakers. That

group reunited in 2008 and has since released two studio albums and done a couple of tours.

“American Treasure” came about because I was sitting around with a bunch of people and we were all lost in this pretty deep hole,” Adria said. “I was talking to Mike and Ben, kind of begging them about ‘How do we carry on without my dad being the creative voice who makes decisions? How do we get familiar with what’s not been released and begin to take in 40 years or more of a life?’”

What to include and what to leave off wasn’t always an easy choice. “We argued a lot,” Campbell said. “Really — a lot.”

Many choices came down to intensely personal connections to particular songs.

“You and Me” was one I picked,” Petty’s widow, Dana Petty, said in a separate interview at the Malibu, Calif., house she and Tom shared since they wed in 1991. Without knowing it, she sat on the same couch, even the same cushion, her husband had occupied a little less than a year earlier in the foyer of his home recording and rehearsal studio during what turned out to be his final interview.

“That was the last song he heard the day he died,” Dana said. “He had me look online and find Martyn Atkins’ video that was never finished that he shot in the desert. (Atkins) ended up putting a video together of him riding a dirt bike around the desert, and it was so sweet. He got really nostalgic that day.”

It concedes that they continue to struggle in varying ways with Petty’s death — ruled by the Los Angeles County Sheriff-Coroner’s office to have been the result of an accidental overdose of prescription painkillers Petty had been taking to contend with the cracked hip he weathered throughout the Heartbreakers’ 40th anniversary tour in 2017.

For Dana, it’s heartache over the unfulfilled promise that “Tommy, my best friend, my rock” made to lease an airplane and start to do some traveling with her, something Petty rarely took enough time away from his music to do.

For Adria, tears still flow when it hits her, often, that her 5-year-old daughter, Everly — after the Everly Brothers, the name signifying “perfect harmony” to Adria — will not grow up knowing her rock star grandpa.

For Campbell, “We were more than close. There were so many deep strains in our band. And we lived a dream together. We dreamed a dream, and it all came true for all of us — together. That creates a love that’s deeper than any other love I can imagine: the songwriting, and the song playing, and making records, playing all those shows in front of all those people together.”

“Tom could have been a solo artist, but he loved the band,” Campbell added. “And we loved him and we stuck together because we loved it so much, and that’s something you never get over.”

For Tench, “There’s a sound you make with another person, especially if they’re exceptional like him, and that is a sound that’s gone. The sound of me playing with him. The sound of just Mike and him. The sound of all of us playing with him, it’s gone. Since I was 18, I’ve made that sound with those people. Mike and I can still make our sound, but we don’t get to make that sound with Tom. And that’s a big, big, big deal to me.”

Being able to continue to hear Petty’s voice — speaking as well as singing — has been a mixed blessing for all the participants in the “American Treasure” project.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

**Besides having the DNA, as a layman, I’m also just a huge fan, and I always had a lot of respect and awe for my dad’s craft and his authenticity.**

Adria Petty

Tom Petty’s daughter and collaborator on the 60-track, career-spanning box set “Tom Petty — An American Treasure”

## WEEKEND: MUSIC

## BLUES REVIEWS

## Billy F. Gibbons

The Big Bad Blues (Concord Records)

Billy F. Gibbons hasn't strayed far from the blues but after a 2015 solo debut awash in Afro-Cuban influences, "The Big Bad Blues" is a sort of homecoming in more ways than one — the very ZZ Top-like opening track, "Missin' Yo Kessin,'" among the record's best, was penned by his wife, Gilly Stillwater.

Gibbons' own compositions also make a fine fit with the Chicago blues tradition represented by covers of Muddy Waters, Bo Diddley and maracas-wielding Diddy collaborator Jerome Green. The years have added layers of feeling and depth to Gibbons' gruff vocal register, often resulting in an increasingly symbiotic growl with his guitar.

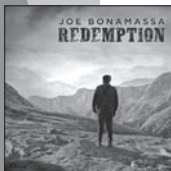
Waters' looping "Standing Around Crying" features some smoking harmonica from James Harman which just might cause your own eyes to tear up, while one of the first recordings (by Hambone Willie Newbern) of the other Waters track, the frantic "Rollin' and Tumblin'," dates back to 1929 and has been covered by everyone from Cream to Cyndi Lauper.

Green's "Bring It to Jerome" is missing the call-and-answer background vocals that made Diddley's original so much fun, but to hear Gibbons sort of harmonizing with himself provides its own dose of excitement. The album bids farewell to Diddley's "Crackin' Up" and its Latin feel harkens back to "Perfectamundo," Gibbons' previous album.

Among the originals, "Hollywood 151" stands out for its nasty guitars, "Second Line" is a typical Gibbons relationship song inspired by a New Orleans brass band tradition and "Let the Left Hand Know" is incredibly bottom-heavy.

Assisted by the likes of drummer Matt Sorum and co-producer Joe Hardy on bass, Gibbons, who now uses the middle initial in his name, sounds comfortably loose on "The Big Bad Blues," which more than lives up to its name.

— Pablo Gorondi  
Associated Press



## Joe Bonamassa

Redemption (J&amp;R Adventures)

There are a few months left in the year, so although "Redemption" is his third album of 2018 — after a strong collaboration with Beth Hart and a double live album of covers of tunes by British legends like Eric Clapton, Cream, Jeff Beck and Led Zeppelin — it's possible Joe Bonamassa still has a release or two in his bag.

Should he end his annual output here, however, Bonamassa will be going out in style. "Redemption" displays his customary diversity of blues-rock forms and his superior six-string chops, but the album also rocks a little harder, is enhanced by a lively horn section and even shows some vulnerability.

Without getting too specific, Bonamassa has talked about going through an unexpected rough patch. Song titles include "Evil Mama," "Deep In the Blues Again" and "Self-Inflicted Wounds," and he even sings the line, "She gave me grief / And a whole lot of blues." Another lyric focuses on causing pain after hooking up with a face in the crowd. It's not hard to guess the storyline.

Making room for a pair of guitarists to join him on a few songs may also be part of the redemptive process, or maybe it's the noticeable effort to add some deeper soul to his vocals, but Bonamassa sounds closer to a man who's diagnosed his blues and has the cure at hand than one who's letting it all get him down.

You won't hear anyone credit — or blame — Bonamassa with reinventing the wheel but, by recalibrating his skills, "Redemption" rolls along with enough power and panache to stand as one of the most convincing vehicles of his musical vision.

— Pablo Gorondi  
Associated Press



Left: Billy F. Gibbons

Courtesy of Concord Music Group

Right: Joe Bonamassa

Courtesy of Big Hassle Media

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"To be honest with you, it was really hard at times to hear his voice," said Campbell, sitting on a sofa next to Tench and strumming a vintage resonator guitar in Campbell's home studio in the San Fernando Valley, where the group's 1999 album, "Echo," was recorded. "I mean, it's not that long... At times, it was really emotional. Thank God for Ryan, because he did a lot of the lifting and went through a lot of the tracks. I couldn't sit there that much because it was just too intense.

"It is overwhelming. We all were suffering through it for him. We were doing it for him."

To help ease their own pain, and that of legions of Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers fans, the "An American Treasure" organizing quintet eventually settled on 60 tracks, many of them studio recordings never previously released. There are also dozens of live performances and alternate takes of classic songs and deep cuts, some framed with the chatter among musicians before and after recorded takes.

For Adria, the goal was personal — not to remind the world of her father's more than two dozen singles that made the Billboard Top 100 or 10 Top 10 albums, among 20 that Petty placed on the

Our criteria is that Tom was sitting here with us. Would he approve of this or not? And a lot of times, you'd go, 'He wouldn't like this stuff. He wouldn't want anybody to hear this.' But the other stuff, I think if he was here, he'd say, 'There was some validity to it, I'm proud of that, and it should be here.'

Mike Campbell  
Heartbreakers guitarist

Billboard 200 Albums chart over four decades.

"My dad wasn't a walking anthem," she said. "I started to think of my dad as being at one with his (Gibson) Dove guitar writing songs all the time.

"I really wanted this to highlight him as a songwriter," she said. "I want fans to know what it was like for me, hearing him strumming his guitar down the hall, working on a song, and then hearing that song being finished and recorded."

She's describing a process that Petty himself said never grew old. "I compare songwriting to fishing: There's either a fish in the boat, or there's not," Petty said in that final interview, in which he expressed enthusiasm about various future projects.

"Sometimes you come home, and you didn't catch anything, and sometimes you caught a huge fish," he said. "That was the work part of it to me. To play live was fairly easy. That's simplifying things a lot, but that part of it didn't seem as challenging to me as coming up with a song."

"It's all about songs. If I look back at it, I just think about I always had to write another song. We always needed another hit song. In those days, that's how it worked; you brought out a song for the radio. And I got pretty good at that. I would just always be writing.

"It's kind of a lonely work. Because you just have to keep your pole in the water. I always had a little routine of going into whatever room I was using at the time to write in and just staying in there till I felt like I got a bite."

The new box is a testament to that work ethic. Campbell, Tench, Ulyate, Dana and Adria Petty stress that the unreleased material is anything but rejects. At various points in separate interviews, all marveled at one track or another that had never seen the light of day.

"Our criteria," Campbell said, "is that Tom was sitting here with us. Would he approve of this or not? And a lot of times, you'd go, 'He wouldn't like this stuff. He wouldn't want anybody to hear this.' "But the other stuff, I think if he was here, he'd say, 'There was some validity to it, I'm proud of that, and it should be here.' So we always kept him right by our side through this whole process."

Tench concluded, "It's been good for me to go through and hear this stuff. It's validating, it keeps it alive. A friend of mine said, when my mother passed away, that people pass away, but the love doesn't leave. This whole thing has been proof of that to me. And the music is an aspect of the love, and the music does not leave."



# WEEKEND: BOOKS

# Idle recalls days as a Python in 'Bright Side'

By DAVID SILVERBERG  
Special to The Washington Post

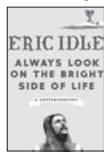
When you have a tour guide as engaging as Eric Idle, you'll gladly go wherever he takes you. The writer and comedian best known as a member of the British sketch troupe Monty Python has curated an intimate journey of what it was like to be a writer who suddenly found himself a massively famous actor.

Idle, who lives in Los Angeles, doesn't just provide a detailed account of his days with John Cleese, Terry Jones, Graham Chapman, Michael Palin and Terry Gilliam; Idle's relationships with celebrities such as Robin Williams, Mike Nichols and Steve Martin also give readers a nuanced look into talented Americans whose love of what they do enriched Idle's path to stardom.

"Always Look on the Bright Side of Life" begins with Idle introducing us to his easygoing British childhood and education at Cambridge, before he segues to how he met the future Python members during TV writing stints.

Their first BBC show, "Monty Python's

Flying Circus," featured a structure as loose as you'd expect: "We tried discussing what it should be about, but failed hopelessly," Idle writes. "So we just went ahead and wrote what we felt like and then came together at Jones's house in Camberwell and read out our sketches."



Idle touches on his love of comedy writing, which was priority No. 1 for the Pythons. After played second fiddle to the scripts they sweated over. This section could have benefited from deeper dives into how certain

sketches came to be, although Idle does reveal the origin story behind the classic

"wink nudge nudge say no more" bit. The more inside-baseball sections pull us into the grimy filming experience that was "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," where the terrible weather and Chapman's alcoholism marred the shoot. Python nerds learn which hilarious scenes were shot in one take and why they replaced a medieval soundtrack with

"cliche music from a film library."

The stories of how "Life of Brian" and "The Meaning of Life" came to be are just as enthralling, the former more so due to the decision by former Beatle George Harrison — a longtime friend of Idle's — to bankroll the film.

The memoir's title refers to the finale song during "Life of Brian," which became Idle's calling-card hit and ended up on the London Olympics stage. If you've ever wondered how Idle created such a cheery tune for a chorus of crucified characters, the reveal will be as entertaining as the lyrics. ("If life seems jolly rotten / There's something you've forgotten / And that's to laugh and smile and dance and sing.")

Between the long hours of prepping for films and his mockumentary "The Rutles," Idle's rock-star status had him befriending the likes of Mick Jagger and Robin Williams, whom Idle so vividly captures, who can practically smell the comedian's sweat as he dervishes into routine after routine.

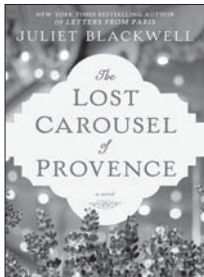
The Python road to fame might have looked smooth, but Idle writes on how painful it was to endure Chapman's death in 1989. Ever the jokers, the troupe still

found a way to poke fun at this grief in several gags too shocking to spoil here.

Then along came financial challenges when a "Holy Grail" producer sued the comedians after he saw the wild success Idle enjoyed with the Tony Award-winning musical "Spamalot." You can feel the vitriol in Idle's veins when he writes how this lawsuit forced the Pythons to reunite for several London shows. That anger gives way to a blueprint for how to direct a reunion show swarming with so many moving parts, it practically became its own flying circus.

You don't need to know every line to the "Dead Parrot" sketch or "Every Sperm Is Sacred" to appreciate Idle's hilarious memoir. His lessons on the craft go beyond Python sketches and extend into dissecting what makes a joke memorable.

Thanks to his many witticisms, acting as asses to more informative memories, "Bright Side" is a breezy read. It's the kind of book you'll want to read twice — once when the genius of Python sketches are fresh in your memory, and once when those scenes have faded so you can be reminded how these comedy rebels shook up an art form that was due for a dose of surreal silliness.



## The Lost Carrousel of Provence

Juliet Blackwell

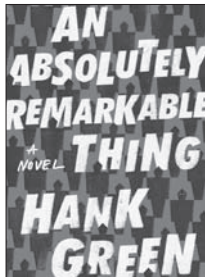
Cady Drake is a loner who is perfectly content hiding behind the lens of her camera. Her friend lines up a photography job for Cady in France where she'll shoot Parisian carousels for a coffee-table book.

Cady has an affection for carousels, thanks to a gift she received when she was younger. Her eloquent wooden rabbit is thought to be sculpted by the famous French carousel carver Gustave Bayol. She's determined to find out more about its history, especially when she discovers a photo and love note hidden in the rabbit's belly.

Cady's travels take her all around France, but she finds herself drawn to Chateau Clement for its rich history and mysterious rumors surrounding its once beautiful carousel. Cady manages to gain the chateau owner's trust and soon finds herself uncovering decades of clues and photographs pertaining to the lost carousel. And in doing so, she exposes long-kept secrets about a prominent family in Provence.

Blackwell takes something as simple as a carousel and weaves an intricate story that spans generations.

— Lincee Ray/AP



## An Absolutely Remarkable Thing

Hank Green

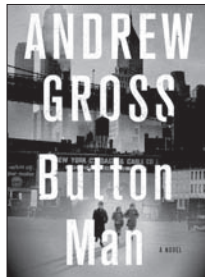
April May pays her dues working at a Manhattan-based startup by logging in a ton of hours. She stumbles upon a 10-foot-tall Transformer-style robot on the sidewalk at 3 a.m., it seems to have materialized out of thin air.

April calls her best friend Andy to come and see the robot. Andy videotapes April with the structure, whom she names Carl, and uploads the project. The next day, both are dumbfounded to learn that the video went viral. They are overnight sensations, and when the world discovers that other cities have their own "Carls," April is thrust into the spotlight as an expert.

Who some find the Carls intriguing and mysterious, eager to solve why they are here, others consider them a threat. April finds herself in a media whirlwind defending the robots, the possibility of aliens, humanity and her personal life. She begins to crack under the pressure of social media, fear and uncertainty.

"An Absolutely Remarkable Thing" is a thrilling journey that takes a hard look at the power of fame and our willingness to separate a person from the brand.

— Lincee Ray/AP



## Button Man

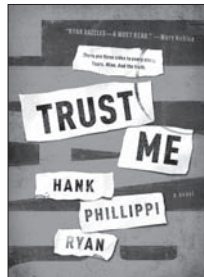
Andrew Gross

Morris, Sol and Harold Rabinowitz, Jewish immigrants living in New York City, had to become adults quickly after their father's death transfers responsibility for supporting the family to them. Morris drops out of school and becomes an apprentice for a garment cutter. Sol becomes an accountant, and Harold starts working with mobster Louis Buchalter.

The novel spans decades as the three brothers discover love, work with each other to achieve success in a turbulent city, and fight with each other for what each one feels is the right reason. As Morris finds success, he hires Sol to help keep the financials in order. Harold's ties to Buchalter create an immediate rift, and with the clothing factories wanting to unionize, Buchalter has a financial stake in making sure that happens to Morris' plant and his workers, though Morris would rather keep the status quo.

Gross transports readers back to a time where religious persecution and organized crime ran rampant in New York City. He mixes real historical figures with fictional creations, and the story still feels authentic and personal.

— Jeff Ayers/AP



## Trust Me

Hank Phillippi Ryan

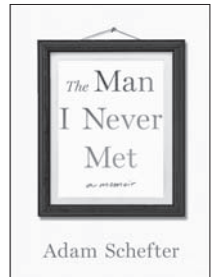
Mercer Hennessey was a well-respected news writer, but she gave it up to be with her family. She was a loving wife and devoted mother, but an accident changed everything and now she's a widow. She knows she needs to pick herself up, but doesn't dare take that first step back to the real world.

When her former boss offers her the chance to write a tell-all book about a significant trial, Mercer can't refuse. A television feed from the courtroom to her living room will allow her to stay private while also rediscovering the joy of writing.

The issue Mercer has to grapple with is the case itself. Ashlyn Bryant is accused of murdering her young daughter. Her alibi shifts constantly, and she seems to have excuses for every piece of evidence provided by prosecutors. Mercer quickly sees the case as a chance to move past the death of her husband and daughter, and she will do this by seeing justice done in the trial against Bryant.

Strong feelings like grief, anger and love ooze off the page while realistic characters make the reader care about every tiny detail of the story.

— Jeff Ayers/AP



## The Man I Never Met

Adam Scheffter

Adam Scheffter's scoops on NFL player transactions, injuries, coaching changes and the like seemingly come on a daily basis via his tweets and appearances on ESPN, his current employer. Scheffter previously worked as a league insider for the NFL Network, and before that as a Denver Broncos beat writer for two newspapers in Colorado.

He was in Denver on 9/11. The terrorist attack deeply affected Scheffter, a native New Yorker — in more ways than he knew at the time.

Among the victims was Joe Maio, 32, who worked in the north tower of the World Trade Center. He left behind his wife, Sharri, his current son, Devon, who was a toddler. Five years later, Sharri Maio remarried. That man? Adam Scheffter.

The memoir focuses not only on the four members of the Scheffter family — Adam and Sharri's daughter Dylan is now nearly 10 — but also the ever-present fifth, a man who is "never seen but always there," Scheffter writes about the titular Joe Maio.

"The Man I Never Met" is a deeply personal tale about the transformative power of love.

— Mike Householder/AP

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION &amp; DVD

## NEW ON DVD

**"Solo: A Star Wars Story":** The background of one of the most lovable rogues in the galaxy, Han Solo, is revealed. Alden Ehrenreich turns in a solid performance as Solo, but it isn't enough to mask all the big problems with the film. Director Ron Howard, who was brought in after filming had started, shows little self-control with "Solo" as the action scenes go from exciting to boring. His failure to cut the scenes to a proper length starts with the opening chase and continues in a robbery sequence on a train-like vehicle through a frozen mountain pass. Neither comes to a dramatic conclusion but just fades away. Part of the problem is the writing. Lawrence Kasdan has shown skill with the Star Wars universe through his screenplays for "The Empire Strikes Back," "Return of the Jedi" and "The Force Awakens." This time, Kasdan and his son, Jonathan, show none of the beauty in storytelling that made the others work.



LUCASFILM/AP

Alden Ehrenreich appears in "Solo: A Star Wars Story," now on DVD.

**"Hot Summer Nights":** Director/writer Elijah Bynum presents a world where nothing is what it appears to be. In simple terms, Bynum's begging the viewer not to judge anything based on first impressions. The production about a socially awkward Daniel Middleton (Timothée Chalamet), who in 1991 is visiting his summer before college visiting his aunt on Cape Cod, becomes a study in contrasts made compelling by the central players who also include Alex Roe, Maika Monroe and Maia Mitchell. "Hot Summer Nights" has its problems, but it also has four major strengths in the young cast.

**"Puppet Master: The Littlest Reich":** The most recent installment in the horror franchise that started in 1989 stars Thomas Lennon, Michael Pare and Jenny Pellicer. At least their names are in the credits. The real stars are the killer toys named Blade, Pinhead and Tunneler.

Also available on DVD:

**"The Seagull":** Annette Bening and Saoirse Ronan star in the film based on the play by Anton Chekhov.

**"The Gifted: Season One":** A family gets help from an underground network of mutants when they learn their children have special powers.

**"Uncle Drew":** Uncle Drew (Kyrie Irving) rounds up his old basketball squad to prove that a group of septuagenarians can still play to win.

**"Billions: Season Three":** Chuck Rhoades (Paul Giamatti) and Bobby Axelrod (Damian Lewis) remain determined to destroy each other while battling for their own survival.

**"Gotti":** Crime boss John Gotti (John Travolta) becomes the "Teflon Don" of the Gambino crime family in New York.

**"Dynasty: Season One":** The Carrington family members live in a world of power and deception in this new version of the '80s primetime soap opera.

**"9-1-1: Season 1":** TV series that explores the high-pressure experiences of police officers, paramedics and firefighters.

**"Fraggle Rock: The Complete Series":** All 96 episodes of the Jim Henson series are available on Blu-ray for the first time.

—Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service

# Psyched

## about new television drama

### Roday stars in series 'A Million Little Things'

By RICK BENTLEY  
Tribune News Service

**"A** Million Little Things," the new ABC drama, is based on the idea that friendship isn't one big part of our lives but is made up of a multitude of tiny moments. Some are so small they are easy to overlook until a tragedy strikes.

The event that makes a group of male friends take another look at what brought them together is a suicide. The aftermath of that moment has the surviving friends — some of whom have achieved success while others are struggling in their careers and relationships — realizing there is a need to finally start living. And, that process means doing more than sharing seats at a sporting event, but also learning to talk and listen to each other.

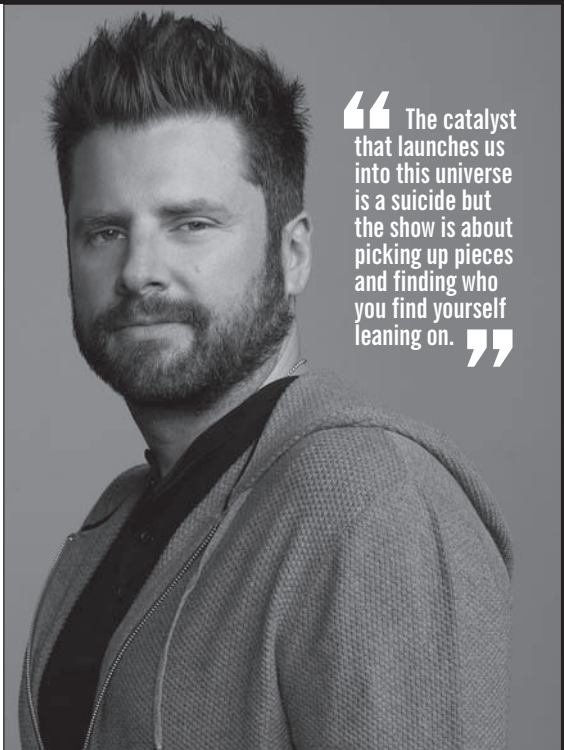
As for the reason why their friend ended his life, that's a question that might never be answered. Series creator and executive producer DJ Nash ("Growing Up Fisher") lost a friend to suicide and knows from experience that some questions never get answered.

Nash explains: "Our first season is about saying goodbye to John and looking at the reasons of why it might be. And we might discover what the straw was that broke the camel's back, but we don't know what all of the straws are, and we'll never know which straw it was. And so I think that's really true."

"I think, in telling the story about what happened to John and what happens to the rest of these friends because of John, we just want to be true to what would happen in life."

"A Million Little Things" stars David Kim as Eddie Saville, Ron Livingston as Ron Dixon, Romany Malco as Rome Howard, Allison Miller as Maggie Bloom, Christina Moses as Regina Howard, Christina Ochoa as Ashley Morales, Grace Park as Katherine Kim and James Roday as Gary Mendez.

Roday's character shows the most anger at the death of his friend partly because he's been in a battle with a not-so-com-



ABC

James Roday — a familiar face to fans of "Psych" — stars on the new TV drama "A Million Little Things." The show premieres Sept. 29 on AFN-Spectrum.

mon form of cancer in men for so many years. He has had no problem relating to the friendship elements of the story.

"I have some of the most incredible, sensitive, open male friends," Roday says. "I think I may be the exception to the rule. I don't know if it is because they are actors or artists or that their constitution is different, but my male friends talk the (expletive deleted) out of everything with each other."

"I probably do the least amount, but I certainly listen and I feel like I know them very, very well."

Roday's best known for his eight-year run as Shawn Spencer on the USA comedy "Psych." The detective series gave the Texas native a chance to show how he could make people laugh. One of the major reasons he wanted to be part of "A Million Little Things" is that he will get the chance

to show he can play serious roles.

It's also a chance for Roday to get back to acting after spending the majority of time between the end of "Psych" and the start of his new drama working as a director.

"I really, really enjoy directing, but it is tough to keep calling yourself an actor if you are not going to take a job like this one," Roday says. "I really did find myself looking in the mirror and saying 'OK, you either do this job and do all the other things or you pass on this job and you just do directing.'"

"The show made me make a life-changing decision, but these are really, really rich human beings. This is a show that everybody can relate to because they have gone through something. The catalyst that launches us into this universe is a suicide, but the show is about picking up pieces and finding who you find yourself leaning on."

## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS

## FENDING OFF THE FLU

Given the severity of the recent season, CDC urging people to get vaccinated now



By HOWARD COHEN  
Miami Herald

**T**he flu was “everywhere” last year, just before the October start of the 2018-19 flu season, and got vaccinated earlier this year.

Some of the age ranges for certain vaccines have been lowered and some vaccines were reformulated to better prevent currently circulating viruses.

Among the benefits of getting vaccinated for the flu: Getting a vaccine doesn’t mean you won’t get the flu, but if you do get sick, it could be less severe, experts say.

In addition, a 2007 CDC study found that the flu vaccination significantly reduced a child’s risk of dying from influenza. The study analyzed data from four flu seasons between 2010 and 2014 and found that “flu vaccination reduced the risk of flu-associated death by half, or 51 percent, among children with underlying high-risk medical conditions and by nearly two-thirds, 65 percent, among healthy children.”

Vaccines to fight the flu can also protect women during and after pregnancy and protect a baby after delivery, the CDC said.

The push to take the flu seriously is especially relevant given the severity of the recent season. Vaccines are available at pharmacies, including those at Publix, Walgreens, CVS and most doctor’s offices.

“The 2017-18 season was the first season to be classified as a high severity across all age groups,” the CDC reported. The influenza-like-illness activity ramped up in November, “reached an extended period of high activity during January and February nationally, and remained elevated throughout the end of March,” the CDC reported.

Adult deaths from the flu are not nationally notifiable, the CDC said, but children’s cases are tabulated. The number of pediatric deaths attributed to the flu, as of Aug. 25, numbered 180 — the worst since 171 died during the

particularly severe 2012-13 flu season.

Of the 180 children who died in the past year, 80 percent, or 144 of them, did not receive the vaccine during the season, the CDC said.

In addition, the duration of cases at or above the national baseline was 19 weeks, “making the 2017-2018 season one of the longest in recent years,” the CDC said.

According to the CDC, flu viruses are most common during the fall and winter months. Influenza activity starts to pick up the pace in October and November. The peak of flu activity happens sometime between December and February, but it can last as late as May.

So what will this flu season be like into 2019?

The short answer, according to the CDC: “It is not possible to predict what this flu season will be like.

While flu spreads every year, the timing, severity and length of the season varies from one season to another.”

But the CDC reports that there are several new things this season.

Among them:

- Flu vaccines have been updated to better match currently circulating viruses. The B/Victoria component was changed and the influenza A(H3N2) component was updated.

- For the 2018-2019 season, the nasal spray flu vaccine — or live attenuated influenza vaccine, or LAIV, often a go-to option for young children who hate shots — starting at 2 years of age, is recommended. The vaccine is also approved for use in non-pregnant women up to age 49, unless your doctor warns against its use depending on your medical history.

- All LAIV vaccines will be quadrivalent, designed to protect against four different flu viruses: two influenza A viruses and two influenza B viruses. Most regular-dose egg-based flu shots will be quadrivalent. “All recombinant vaccines will be quadrivalent. No trivalent recombinant vaccines will be available this season,” the CDC said.

- The intradermal flu vaccine, a shot injected into the skin instead of the muscle using a smaller needle than the regular flu shot and requiring less antigen to be as effective as the regular flu shot, will not be available this season.

- The age recommendation for Fluorix Equivalent, which uses mammalian culture rather than chicken embryos, was changed from 3 years old and older to 6 months and older.

- The age recommendation for Afluria Quadrivalent, an inactivated influenza vaccine, was changed from 18 years and older to 5 years and older.

According to the CDC, “flu vaccines protect against the three or four viruses that research suggests will be most common.”

This season, healthcare providers will provide vaccines in various ways, such as standard dose flu shots given into the muscle via needle or, for some individuals ages 18-64, two varieties, Afluria and Afluria Quadrivalent, can be delivered via jet injector, a medical device that uses a high-pressure, narrow stream of fluid to penetrate the skin instead of a hypodermic needle.

Also available will be shots made using a vaccine production technology that does not require the use of flu virus.

The CDC recommends that you get your vaccination now, on the eve of the 2018-19 flu season, before it picks up steam in October.

Some stateside school districts have already started social media campaigns to spread awareness of the coming flu season and have begun programs to offer shots for children.

“You should get a flu vaccine before flu bugs spreading in your community,” the CDC suggests. “It takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies that protect against flu to develop in the body, so make plans to get vaccinated early in the fall, before flu season begins.”

If you’re a procrastinator, you are still advised to get the vaccine even if it’s January or later. But the CDC counsels that children are a special concern.

“Children who need two doses of vaccine to be protected should start the vaccination process sooner, because the two doses must be given at least four weeks apart.”

## QUICK HITS

## Childrens’ oral bacteria may predict obesity

By MARI A. SCHAEFER  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

There may soon be a simple way to identify children at risk for developing obesity later in life.

Researchers from Penn State University analyzed the bacteria in the mouths of 226 2-year-olds and found that a child’s oral microbiota can be used as a tool to predict weight gain during the first two years of their lives.

The study is part of a larger project of 300 children at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center that seeks to identify biological and social risks for obesity. The results were published Sept. 19 in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

“One in three children in the United States is overweight or obese,” said Kateryna Makova, a biology professor at Penn State and senior author of the paper. “If we can find early indicators of obesity in young children, we can help parents and physicians take preventive measures.”

The children, who were from central Pennsylvania, had experienced rapid weight gain as infants, which is a strong indicator for childhood obesity.

Researchers also found that the oral microbiota among these children contained fewer types of bacteria. A larger diversity of bacteria helps protect against inflammation and is important for the stability of digestion.

“A healthy person usually has a lot of different bacteria within their gut microbiota,” said Sarah Craig, a postdoctoral scholar in biology at Penn State and first author of the paper.

While previous studies in adults and adolescents have linked obesity to gut microbes, this is the first time a relationship between the oral microbiota and weight gain in children has been explored, the researchers said.

“The oral microbiota is usually studied in relation to periodontal disease, and periodontal disease has in some cases been linked to obesity,” said Craig.

The researchers did not investigate how diet or environmental changes over time could affect the link between oral bacteria and obesity. Makova said the fact that mothers who spend less time breast feeding children than they did in the 1960s could be a factor.

Obesity is a complex issue and has many different causes, she said.

“Of course, as a parent you should be watching for the best diet and exercise,” Makova said.



## WEEKEND: FAMILY

## Dealing kids a winning hand



iStock photos

**Learning how to lose is a valuable lesson. But maybe parents let their small children beat them at board games now and then?**

By JEFF VRABEL  
The Washington Post

**S**hould you let your children win at board games? Actually, let me rephrase that: Should you let your children win at board games if you can beat them at board games? Because, frankly, I lost a startling number of Chutes and Ladders games to my son when he was 5 years old. (In my defense, there is zero strategy to Chutes and Ladders — and that dude had no idea what he was doing.)

On the whole, we have yet to establish a consistent routine about this winning-and-losing situation, and my inconsistency is clearly making a tricky situation worse. Sometimes I'll take a dive in Battleship, levy an off-base accusation in Clue or make a deliberately lousy chess move to let the little people stay a competitive step ahead (and keep the game moving). At other times I'll decide that I must use this friendly game of Ticket to Ride: New York to teach him that life is an ever-stretching mosaic of boundless disappointment, and that he must begin to navigate it immediately by dealing with how I blocked his route from Central Park to Greenwich Village.

There is little rhyme or reason to these decisions, which depend essentially on how I'm feeling and how snippy my son has been lately about screen time. Sometimes he

beats me at things outright, and that's fantastic. There's a game called Blokus that I've lost, regularly and badly, to a person who routinely puts his shirts on backward and ends 85 percent of dinners by falling out of his chair.

I don't mind losing to someone who is better than me. But I should have established some system for such games, particularly back when I maintained the ability to keep an upper hand at some of them. Because with my kids now 14 and 6, I'm pretty sure it has contributed to this curious result: We are really bad at losing.

We are bad at losing board games. We are bad at watching the Chicago Cubs lose on TV. We are bad at losing karate competitions. We are bad at losing backyard cornhole games to Dad. We are bad at losing presidential elections (okay, that one's true for everyone). We are bad even at losing that last week I caught both kids cheating, independently of each other, attempting to peek in a game that requires some players to keep their eyes closed. Needless to say, this resulted in a lively and colorful series of discussions about fairness and ethics, and why we won't be playing the Werewolf game in the next six years.

Most children are maniacally driven to win, of course, and I'm certainly not raising the only two shiftily-eyed tricksters in town. (Don't get me started on the kid



down the street and his super-questionable approach to Super Smash Bros.) But watching your children cheat in front of you has the curious effect of making one rethink his entire approach to games, sports and life in general.

I don't have the slightest answer for how to handle these situations when you're playing games with kids, and anyone claiming to is trying to get you to either click on a headline or invite them to share their hard-line old-school Strict Parenting Techniques at a conference. And I grew up a Cubs fan, so I was genetically preprogrammed to deal with loss — shapeless, overwhelming loss.

But I do wish I had established some plan years ago before we first cracked open Mouse Trap (which is, incidentally, the worst board game of all time), instead of trying to develop a strategy for dealing with competition — and loss — on the fly.

I do have a strategy for what happens when I catch them cheating, though. As a result, I'm happy to report that the bathrooms are clean.

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## An accidental regular at the commissary

**T**he day after my honeymoon 25 years ago, I moved into my Navy husband's apartment in Alexandria, Va. He carted me around to get a military ID, submit Tricare forms and obtain base pass stickers for my car, so I'd be an official, card-carrying military spouse.

Then he went to work, leaving me home — alone. I checked the kitchen for something to eat. The cupboards contained a plastic barrel of pretzels, a half loaf of white bread and an expired box of Shake'N Bake left there by his old girlfriend. In the fridge, I found baloney, a gallon of milk, a bag of onions and a bottle of ketchup.

"I'd better go shopping," I thought. Rather than pay seven bucks a pound for ground beef in the greater Washington, D.C., area, I hopped in the car and braved the tangle of highways to get our rightful discounts at the base commissary.

The commissary didn't look like a normal supermarket. It was a drab warehouse with austere interior — no soothing background music or eye-catching displays. The shoppers were all business, and seemed to know exactly what they were doing.

I, on the other hand, wandered aimlessly, despite the directional arrows painted on the floor. Although my new military ID card got me into this bastion of military support services, I didn't seem to belong there. I felt like a teenager who just got into a nightclub with a fake driver's license.

I completely forgot what I came to buy. I nervously grabbed grapefruits, oyster crackers, ground beef, cooking oil and a box of raisins. I despised raisins and had never purchased oyster crackers in my life. Overwhelmed and unable to focus, I headed for the checkout.

My paltry purchases were placed into three plastic bags by a tall, thin bagger with a graying beard. "Ma'am, I'll carry these to your car."

"Oh no!" I said, to be polite, "I'll carry them myself."

The smile drained from the bagger's face. He crossed his arms, looked away and muttered, "That's your prerogative." Not sure what I'd done to irritate him, I scurried to my car like a cockroach running under a pantry door.

Francis returned from work, eager to experience his first home-cooked meal as a married man. Puzzled by the dinner of meatloaf with a side of grapefruit, he asked, "So how was your day, Honey?" I related my commissary fiasco, and Francis immediately realized my mistake. Over dinner, he explained that in the military, one must always tip the baggers.

Humiliated, I thought I'd never show my face in a commissary again, but as the years passed, it soon became a comfort zone. A place where things made sense no matter whether we were stationed in the remote English countryside or near the sprawling bases in Norfolk, Va. A place where the food was cheap. A place without distracting colorful signs or tempting free samples. A place where I didn't have to worry about discount cards or environmentally-friendly plastic bag bans.

A place that came to feel like home. Nowadays, my minivan shows up at the Naval Station Newport commissary at least once a week. No matter how long my shopping list, I grab one of the small carts that is easier to maneuver. I head for the produce section, pausing briefly at the sushi counter to check for my favorite crunch rolls.

Some days, the commissary is well-stocked. Other days? Not so much. But I'm accustomed to making do. No bok choy? I'll just use cabbage. No vodka sauce? Marinara'll do.

By the time I reach the deli, my cart is overflowing. I order smoked turkey, making sure to get the coupon. I chat with a friend before heading to the checkout. The cashier makes me laugh, sometimes about his dog, and the bagger makes the obligatory comments about the weather. I tip her generously.

On the way home, I relish the familiar routine that has kept me grounded as a Navy wife for 25 years, and I wolf down a hunk of crunch roll. My favorite.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: [themeatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://themeatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com)

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### THE ART OF PUZZLE-MAKING BY ANDREW ZHOU / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

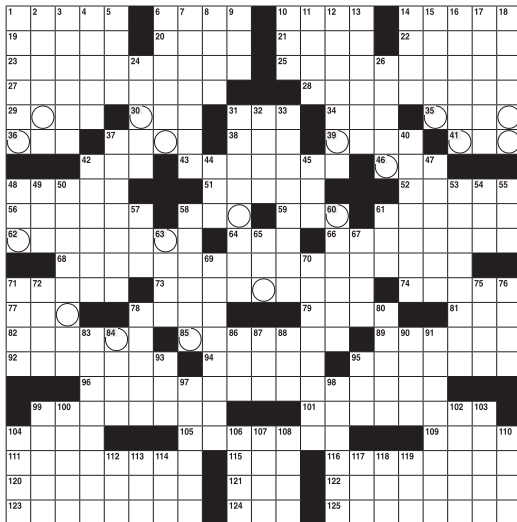
After completing this puzzle, draw a line connecting the circles, starting and ending at the first circle of 62-Across, to spell a five-word message. The connected circles will reveal a picture related to the puzzle's theme.

(Note: Rounded edges look best.) To complete the effect, draw a line between the circle at 36-Across and the circle at the third square of 37-Across.

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p><b>ACROSS</b></p> <p>1 Accents to tuxedos</p> <p>6 Leader in a robe</p> <p>10 Stinger</p> <p>14 Wind-borne seed</p> <p>19 "Sesame Street" figure</p> <p>20 "Long live..."</p> <p>21 Western ski resort</p> <p>22 N.F.L.'s Kaepernick</p> <p>23 Where 68-Across is permanently housed</p> <p>25 How 122-Across is usually described</p> <p>27 Hoses connect to them</p> <p>28 Curiosity or Opportunity</p> <p>29 Imperial ____ (bar orders)</p> <p>30 Pill alternative, for short</p> <p>31 Vegas inits.</p> <p>34 Rug rat</p> <p>35 Blood parts</p> <p>36 It may be a shocker</p> <p>37 Hawaiian for "appetizer"</p> <p>38 Sum to</p> <p>39 Sport ____ (off-roaders)</p> <p>41 Recipe amt.</p> <p>42 Ones making the grade, for short?</p> <p>43 Triangular snacks</p> <p>46 D.J. ____ the Kyd</p> | <p>48 Time for pampering oneself</p> <p>51 Lightly bite</p> <p>52 Dogie catcher</p> <p>56 Invisible lures</p> <p>58 Thither</p> <p>59 Writer with an interest in cryptography</p> <p>61 Idiot, in slang</p> <p>62 Not cooped up</p> <p>64 Sign of relief</p> <p>66 Experimental writing?</p> <p>68 1929 work that is the theme of this puzzle, with "The"</p> <p>71 Short</p> <p>73 "Our" side in a sci-fi battle</p> <p>74 Mild cheeses</p> <p>77 AAA line: Abbt.</p> <p>78 California wine city</p> <p>79 Nickname for the Philadelphia Eagles stadium, with "the"</p> <p>81 Falsity</p> <p>82 Lake that's the source of the Mississippi</p> <p>85 With 96, and 105-Across, how 122-Across explained the subject of this puzzle</p> <p>89 Taps</p> <p>92 Bests in a Fourth of July hot dog contest, say</p> <p>94 Irony or hyperbole</p> <p>95 M16 R&amp;D division in 007 novels</p> <p>96 See 85-Across</p> | <p>99 Certain laundry appliance</p> <p>101 Three ____ of the Wheel of Dharma (Buddhist concept)</p> <p>104 Lead-in to cab</p> <p>105 See 85-Across</p> <p>109 Spanish greeting</p> <p>111 Quantity of eggs</p> <p>115 ____ green</p> <p>116 Prosy</p> <p>120 Place for works that are in the works ... or what the message formed by the connected letters is?</p> <p>121 Houston-based petroleum giant, informally</p> <p>122 Creator of 68-Across</p> <p>123 Established figures?</p> <p>124 Drying-out woe, for short</p> <p>125 "Whew!" elicitor</p> | <p>15 Some pullovers</p> <p>16 Michigan college or its town</p> <p>17 Choir stands</p> <p>18 Snares</p> <p>24 Julius Caesar's first name</p> <p>26 ____ Park, Colo.</p> <p>31 Kind of sauce</p> <p>32 Camera-crane operator</p> <p>33 Something that shouldn't be mixed</p> <p>37 How to get the permit, say</p> <p>40 Shot deliverer</p> <p>42 Circus employees</p> <p>44 Palindromic musician</p> <p>45 Palindromic tribe</p> <p>47 Showed, informally</p> <p>48 Bub</p> <p>49 Big stretch</p> <p>50 Milk-Bone, e.g.</p> <p>53 Cultural gathering</p> <p>54 Boon part</p> <p>55 Scores after duces, informally</p> <p>57 Tijuana title: Abbt.</p> <p>58 Violinist Menuhin</p> <p>60 Draw out</p> <p>61 Org. with a June draft</p> <p>63 Call back?</p> <p>65 ____ Rand Institute</p> <p>67 "I agree fully!"</p> <p>69 Broadcast antennas, e.g.</p> <p>70 Bit of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody"</p> <p>86 Graduating grp.</p> <p>87 Cawfee</p> <p>88 Channel that aired "Moesha"</p> |
|---|---|--|--|

#### DOWN

- 1 Modern pic
- 2 Moving company?
- 3 Open
- 4 Set in a cockpit
- 5 Mailed
- 6 Tie, as a score
- 7 Caramel morsel from Hershey
- 8 Composer of the "Concord" Sonata
- 9 Dorn V.I.P.s
- 10 "Time \_\_\_\_"
- 11 Grad
- 12 Cloud type
- 13 Pirate's pet
- 14 Lasting reminder



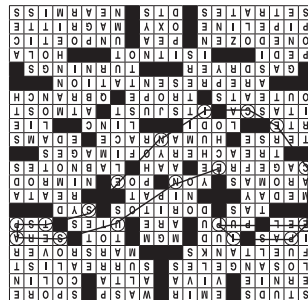
- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p>72 Words upon a shocked realization</p> <p>75 Form 1099-____</p> <p>76 Actor Green</p> <p>78 "See ya!"</p> <p>80 Plane area</p> <p>83 Beach-house owner</p> <p>84 ID</p> <p>86 Graduating grp.</p> <p>87 Cawfee</p> <p>88 Channel that aired "Moesha"</p> | <p>90 Half-Betazoid "Star Trek" character</p> <p>91 German city with a Pennsylvania namesake</p> <p>93 Dangerous job</p> <p>95 Play period: Abbt.</p> <p>97 French queens</p> <p>98 Fall</p> <p>99 Figure in the "Arabian Nights"</p> | <p>100 Virtuosoic</p> <p>102 2018 biopic with a 0% rating on Rotten Tomatoes</p> <p>103 Narrow cuts</p> <p>104 Boston ____</p> <p>106 Device outmoded by smartphones</p> <p>107 Unusual feature of 68-Across</p> | <p>108 Second side to vote</p> <p>110 Nails</p> <p>112 Suffix with Motor</p> <p>113 Unsignally spot</p> <p>114 Chemical ending</p> <p>117 Scottish dental</p> <p>118 Tour grp.</p> <p>119 Winner of a record eight N.H.L. Norris Trophies</p> |
|--|---|--|---|

## GUNSTON STREET



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## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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## FACES



AP

Elizabeth Olsen stars in the Facebook Watch series "Sorry For Your Loss."

## Elizabeth Olsen plays grieving widow in new Facebook series

Associated Press

Elizabeth Olsen is not a user of social media, has never been married, and has never experienced profound loss, but the actress has spent her 2018 surrounded by grief as a young widow in the new Facebook Watch series "Sorry For Your Loss."

The 10-episode, half-hour drama premiered earlier this month on the social media site's new on-demand platform.

"It's just a journey into how we handle grief — and sometimes it's not in the prettiest of ways — and what it brings out in people," said Olsen.

Viewers see her character, Leigh, not only contend with a new reality and future that she never imagined, but also deal with the pressure from her loved ones to move on. There's a poignant scene where Leigh's sister Jules asks her to return to the house she's been avoiding for months — that she shared with her husband — and pick up some of her own clothes so she can stop borrowing hers. It seems like an easy ask, but beneath the surface it's so much more.

"It's a readjustment to how you walk through life, and we're just watching this woman adjust to how she is going to move forward because the only thing she can do is move forward," Olsen said. "There's no going back."

Olsen, who is an executive producer of the series, has been involved in the project from the beginning, from its pitch to filming. She also sat in on post-production editing sessions. It's been a welcome challenge for the actress, best known for playing the Scarlet Witch in Marvel movies.

She calls it "the No. 1 learning experience I have had."

She says Facebook Watch felt like an appropriate home for the show because the social media site is where people go to share important details.

"What I know about Facebook is that it's a place where people find out about births and they find out about deaths and they find out about where the services will be," she said. "It's a community for those big experiences in people's lives and those big moments."

# Familiar role

Dad-of-2 Taran Killam stars on new show 'Single Parents'

By RICK BENTLEY  
Tribune News Service

There was no need to explain to "Single Parents" star Taran Killam the highs, lows, demands, sacrifices and joy of being a parent before he began working on the new ABC comedy. As a father of two children under the age of 9 with actress Cobie Smulders, he had to deal with all those emotions while working on "Saturday Night Live."

"It was very challenging to be on the show and having children," Killam says. "The first four seasons I was on the show, I was commuting because Cobie was still doing 'How I Met Your Mother' in Los Angeles. Every hiatus week, I would fly home. It was two or three weeks of working and then flying home any chance possible."

"It was exhausting and challenging, but the benefit was that I was allowed to focus my energy while I was there."

In "Single Parents," Killam plays Will Cooper, a single father who has spent so much time raising his daughter that he has no time for himself. Other single parents at Will's daughter's school — Angie (Leighton Meester), Douglas (Brad Garrett), Poppy (Kimmy Lewis) and Miggy (Jake Choi) — form a parental intervention to help Will find some time for himself.

Killam is at home more now and gets to spend additional time with his children. But, doing a half-hour comedy that's shot like a feature film takes up a lot of hours. He's using the time at home as a way to relate to his character.

"Cobie works a lot. I work a lot. So, we trade off for long stretches of having the kids by ourselves," Killam says. "Something I read in the script that really spoke to it was that you miss that person. It's not that 'Oh, it's trying and I have to make all the lunches.' You go into autopilot and

that stuff feels manageable.

"But the good stuff, you feel you're missing your partner to share that stuff with."

Both Killam and Smulders try to narrow their work windows so they can be together as a family as much as possible. It takes some planning, but it is something they are committed to doing.

One of the themes he's seen in "Single Parents" is people showing how they need each other. In the series, the other parents keep stopping Will from describing the efforts of the group to deal with parenting as it taking a village. The line is played for comedy, but it's a distinct way to de-

**In "Single Parents," Killam plays ... a single father who has spent so much time raising his daughter that he has no time for himself. Other single parents at Will's daughter's school ... form a parental intervention to help Will find some time for himself.**

scribe what will unfold each week.

Killam talks in glowing terms about his latest network project from the members of the cast to the executives in charge. But, the one thing that makes him the happiest is while he gets to do some improv during the filming of "Single Parents," he's not having to write every one of his lines as he did for six seasons of "SNL." He's always excited to get a script and know all he has to do is show up and act.

Executive producer J.J. Philbin describes "Single Parents" as a show where it's not just Killam's character, but all of the parents who working on themselves. The group is helping each one see the parts of their life they need to fill in and develop more. "I would say we're doing a lot of stories about the characters trying to find love,

trying to figure out what their passions are, figure out who they are beyond just being parents.

And they can really only do that with the help of each other," says Philbin.

Taran Killam and Marlow Barkley star on the TV series "Single Parents," which premieres Sept. 30 on AFN-Pulse. ABC



## Streisand addresses Trump in new song

When Barbara Streisand started writing lyrics for her new political song "Don't Lie to Me," she initially aimed for "very subtle" references to President Donald Trump. But she couldn't help herself.

"I just went ballistic," she said. "Don't Lie to Me," released Thursday, finds a passionate Streisand questioning the nation's leader and pleading for change. Lyrics include, "How do you sleep when they keep turning?/All that we built has come undone/How do you sleep when the world is burning?/Everyone answers to someone."

"I just can't stand what's going on," the Oscar, Grammy and Emmy winner said in an interview with The Associated Press in a phone interview Wednesday night. "His assault on our democracy, our institutions, our founders — I think we're in a fight. ... We're in a war for the soul of America."

"Don't Lie to Me" appears on her new album, "Walls," her first project since mainly original tracks since 2005. It will be released Nov. 2.

Streisand, a proud and outspoken Democrat who has campaigned for politicians over the years, said she felt moved to write original music because of what's happening in the world. Of "The Rain Will Fall" — another new song she co-wrote — she says, "You can spell rain several ways."

"But it's my prophecy," she said, laughing. "I hope it comes true."

## 'Cosby Show' actor gives donation away

Hip-hop star Nicki Minaj has made good on her promise to donate \$25,000 to "The Cosby Show" actor Geoffrey Owens after he was photographed — and job-shamed online — while working at Trader Joe's store last month.

And Owens paid it forward.

The actor, best known for playing optimist Elvin Tibideaux, donated the money to the Actors Fund in memory of screen and stage veteran Earle Hyman, who played Cliff Huxtable's father, Russell, on the 1980s sitcom. Hyman, who died in 2017, "lived his last many years and died at the Actors Home, funded and run by the Actors Fund," Owens said in a statement to The Times on Wednesday.

The Actors Fund will use the donation to "provide essential programs and services to thousands of entertainment and performing arts professionals in need across the country," according to Brian Stokes Mitchell, chairman of the Actors Fund.

## Childish Gambino postpones tour

Childish Gambino is postponing his tour to recover after he injured his foot.

Live Nation says the performer's This Is America Tour will resume Dec. 2 in Nashville. The tour promoter says tickets for the rescheduled shows will be honored at the new dates. Gambino, whose real name is Donald Glover, injured his foot during a concert in Dallas on Sunday.

From wire reports



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## OPINION



Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, visits a farm in Jiansanjing, northeastern China, on Tuesday. Xi was on an inspection tour of the region as China has slapped tariffs on U.S. agricultural imports and looked to increase farming self-sufficiency amid a growing trade war with the United States.

XIE HUANCHI, XINHUA/AP

## Blame Beijing for growing China-US feud

By JOHN POMFRET  
Special to The Washington Post

If there was any doubt that relations between the United States and China are heading for uncharted waters, you only had to listen to President Donald Trump's blistering criticism of Beijing on Tuesday. Speaking at the U.N.'s General Assembly, Trump blamed China for the loss of more than 3 million manufacturing jobs in the United States, the shuttering of 60,000 factories and a combined trade imbalance of \$13 trillion. Touting his latest round of tariffs, which now include about half of all the products China ships to the United States, Trump vowed that "we will not allow our workers to be victimized, our companies to be cheated and our wealth to be plundered and transferred."

And trade is only part of it. On Tuesday the Trump administration also notified Congress of a \$330 million arms sales package for Taiwan, which China claims is its territory. Tensions between China and the United States now run the gamut from a standoff on the South China Sea and worries over North Korea to espionage in cyberspace and an ideological competition across the globe — and they are only going to increase.

Still, as relations deteriorate, it's important to understand that for the most part China's ruling Communist Party has brought this on itself. What's also clear is that the party's bureaucracy has yet to comprehend the full dimension of the tidal shift in the U.S. government's views of China. The political necessity of sucking up to President Xi Jinping has so distorted China's information feedback loop that no one within the bureaucracy seems willing to inform the red emperor that China's foreign policy has failed.

Much of the failure can be blamed on a triumphalist sense within the Chinese Communist Party that its system of resilient authoritarianism is superior to liberal democracy. As far back as a decade ago, the party began shedding the old strategy of its dead leader, Deng Xiaoping, that mandated that China should "bide its time." An aggressive China emerged under party leader Hu Jintao and has only accelerated since Xi took power in 2012.

Take China's relations with Japan. In 2009, the Democratic Party of Japan became the first real opposition party to control Japan's government since World War II. The party's leader, Yukio Hatoyama, ran on a platform that promised equidistance between Washington and Beijing. For China, which had long sought to weaken the U.S.-Japanese alliance, this was a golden opportunity.

But instead of currying favor with the new government in Tokyo, Beijing ramped up its demand that the Senkaku Islands, a collection of uninhabited rocks, be handed over to China. Beijing flooded the waters around the Senkakus with Chinese fishing

## Hardwired in the DNA of many Chinese officials is a belief that a problem for the U.S. constitutes an advantage for China.

boats, leading to a full-blown diplomatic spat in the summer of 2010. The weakness of the Democratic Party of Japan's response to this pressure played a role in the return to power in 2012 of the far more conservative Liberal Democratic Party. Relations with Japan have been testy ever since.

China's policies on the Korean Peninsula also reveal missed opportunities that have hurt Beijing. For years, American officials have sought Chinese help to pressure North Korea as the regime became a nuclear power. American officials tried to engage their Chinese counterparts in a discussion of the future of the peninsula, including the future of the some 30,000 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea, which China has long wanted withdrawn.

China has been reluctant to aid the United States in North Korea, partly because hardwired in the DNA of many Chinese officials is a belief that a problem for the United States constitutes an advantage for China. Instead of carrying out increasingly strict U.N. sanctions on North Korea, Beijing winked as its companies did business with the Kim regime and facilitated its weapons programs. And when North Korea conducted outrageous attacks on the South, such as the sinking of a South Korean naval vessel in March 2010, China was silent, sending North Korea a clear signal that no matter what, Beijing had its back.

Chinese officials argued that if China cut off oil and energy supplies to North Korea, the regime might collapse, resulting in the unification of the Korean Peninsula under a pro-Western government in Seoul. But China's deep-seated opposition to a united Korea shows the failure of imagination at the core of the Chinese leadership. If Korea unites with China's help, it would amount to the biggest boost to China's lagging soft power in this century. Unification of the peninsula could set the scene for even greater Chinese influence in northeast Asia, including the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Korea. But instead of squeezing the North, China squeezed the South, slapping a de facto trade embargo on South Korea in 2016 after Seoul, fearing North Korean rockets, moved to deploy a U.S. missile defense system known as THAAD. In public opinion polls, South Koreans now rate China lower than their old colonial master, Japan.

China's shenanigans in the South China

Sea have caused it trouble throughout the region and with the United States. China's claim to a 1.3-million-square-mile waterway is ludicrous. In the face of it, it is as if the United States claimed the Caribbean. It violates the U.N. Law of the Sea, and in 2016 an international tribunal at The Hague invalidated China's claims to the sea as well as China's attempts to turn rocks in the South China Sea into islands for military use. But China ignored the ruling and broke a promise made in September 2015 by Xi to President Barack Obama not to deploy military forces on those pre-fabricated islands.

Some argue that China, through its aggressive behavior, has already "won" the South China Sea. But what actually has it achieved other than turning seven rocks into permanent military fixtures that could be incinerated at the slightest hint of a conflict with the United States? Was this worth alienating much of Southeast Asia?

China's Belt and Road Initiative to build infrastructure across the world is also finding resistance as countries fear sliding into debt traps and Chinese meddling. In Europe, Trump's election was seen as a golden opportunity for China to drive a wedge between members of the Atlantic alliance. But the party has bungled that, too, by seeking to leverage the poorer countries in Europe to attain benefits in Brussels. The recent diplomatic flap in Sweden over the perfectly professional way Swedish police handled a disruptive Chinese tourist has not won Beijing any points.

Finally, in the United States, China used to have deep connections with American businesses, which constituted the biggest cheerleader for the relationship following the 1989 crackdown on a student-led movement as China's economy reformed and, with America's assistance, China acceded to the World Trade Organization. But years of fruitless negotiations over creating a level playing field for American companies in China, ending China's rampant theft of U.S. commercial secrets and curtailing forced technological transfers, have soured many American firms on the myth of the Chinese market. Now China is facing a Great Wall of tariffs against its products coming into the United States.

To be sure, it's easy to criticize Trump's tougher policy on China as scatter-shot or even dangerous. But those who yearn to "put the relationship back on track" don't really offer viable alternatives to the challenges China presents. One solution is to further accommodate China, but that seems destined to end up rewarding bad behavior. Others have called for a return to the negotiating table, arguing that this time, really, things are back on track. Perhaps Trump is right, and it's time to try something new.

John Pomfret, a former Washington Post bureau chief in Beijing, is the author of "The Beautiful Country and the Middle Kingdom: America and China, 1776 to the Present."

## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### Police chief serves whole city The Dallas Morning News

Leadership is no easy task, as Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall would likely attest. Her latest leadership test involves the fate of former officer Amber Guyger, whom Hall rightly fired this week.

On one hand, Hall was faced with a situation where the raw facts are not in dispute and point to a fireable offense. Earlier this month, Guyger ended a duty shift and headed home. Rather than approach her front door, however, she arrived at an apartment directly above. There, she shot and killed 26-year-old Botham Jean in his own apartment.

Guyger believed at the time, she contends, that Jean was an intruder in her apartment. Nonetheless, it is right for Hall to expect better from her officers than the use of deadly force under such circumstances, and to terminate an officer who fails to meet her expectations in such circumstances.

On the other hand, Hall also leads a proud police force in a major American city. And here, too, the demands of leadership require her to enforce an appropriate level of expectations by terminating an officer involved in such an incident. Actions, even if they are shown to be mistakes, have consequences.

The hard part now is for Hall to lead in a city that is rife with division. In this highly charged moment, only preserving the presumption of innocence for Guyger can create the space that justice requires. She is entitled to the right to appeal her firing. And she is entitled to a full and fair trial on the charge of manslaughter that she faces.

That presumption requires us and our judicial system to be open to the facts that will be presented. But regardless of the outcome of that trial, Hall's officers will have to police today and every day in our city. So we hope that her good decision helps foster the right climate for good, strong community involvement in the law enforcement of our city.

### Foreboding in Fort Trump saga The Washington Post

The European Union announced Monday that it would seek a ruling from the European Court of Justice against Poland's reorganization of its Supreme Court, which EU leaders contend is intended to strip the judiciary of independence. It was the latest step in a belated and much-needed effort by Brussels to prevent Poland's right-wing government from gutting the country's democratic institutions.

It was consequently striking that President Donald Trump chose to single out Poland for praise in an otherwise bitter and bombastic speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday, along with India, Saudi Arabia and Israel. "In Poland, and across Europe, we are standing up for their independence, their security and their sovereignty," he said. Those words will be taken as vindication by the ruling Law and Justice party, which portrays all EU criticism of its authoritarian policies as an attack on the Polish nation.

European diplomats probably will conclude that Trump has sided with those EU governments, including Hungary and Romania as well as Poland, that are flouting the rule of law and other democratic norms. If that is the president's intention, he is making a serious mistake. But perhaps Trump was simply responding to the show of obsequiousness delivered at the White House



CHAIK RUTLAW/AP

Polish President Andrzej Duda addresses the United Nations Security Council during the 73rd session of the U.N. General Assembly on Wednesday.

last week by the Polish president, Andrzej Duda, who lobbied for the establishment of a permanent U.S. military base in Poland. "I was smiling when talking to Mr. President," Duda said at a news conference. "I said that I would very much like for us to set up permanent American bases in Poland, which we would call Fort Trump."

Duda is not the first foreign leader to seek a favorable shift in U.S. policy through personal flattery of Trump; the Saudi and Israeli leaders have been equally craven. But like them, the Polish leadership is risking the erosion of what might otherwise be bipartisan favor in Washington by identifying itself so closely with this polarizing president. There are already some 4,000 U.S. troops in Poland, part of a rotating NATO force meant to deter aggression from Russia. Congress has already mandated a study of a permanent U.S. base in the country. In response to Duda, Trump, who is no fan of deploying U.S. troops abroad, was noncommittal.

It may be that such a base is justified by the threat posed by the regime of Vladimir Putin. The Law and Justice government has probably advanced its cause by offering to cover the cost of the base, which could be in the \$2 billion range. But some in Congress will rightly question whether the U.S. should be deepening a strategic partnership with a country that is dismantling democratic institutions.

Promising to call a base Fort Trump, whether in jest or not, may have won the Polish government some sympathetic words from the president at the U.N. Whether it will serve the country's interests, and U.S.-Polish relations, in the longer run is very much open to question.

### Benefits abuse is a nuisance Los Angeles Times

In an effort to make it more difficult for legal immigrants to live and work in the United States, the Trump administration proposed new rules over the weekend giving officials the right to withhold green cards from applicants who take advantage of a wide range of government aid programs to which they are legally entitled, including food assistance and housing vouchers.

And for prospective immigrants who apply for visas from overseas, government officials would have broad power to reject people whom they believe might someday in the future tap government programs for financial support. That change, experts say, will reduce the overall flow of immigration and skew it toward people seeking to emigrate from more advanced countries.

These are unnecessarily strict and hard-hearted rules aimed at solving a problem that social signposts say doesn't exist.

The government has for decades rejected visa requests and green card applications from people who are likely to become "public charges," defined since 1999 as "primarily dependent on the government for subsistence." That has usually been interpreted, reasonably, to mean people who rely on cash support or people who would require institutional care. Furthermore, the Clinton-era welfare reforms already put major social service programs out of reach for most legal immigrants until they've been here for five years; undocumented immigrants are barred from nearly all public support.

Now, however, the administration wants to consider a legal immigrant a "public charge" if he or she receives government benefits exceeding \$1,821 (15 percent of the federal poverty guidelines) over 12 months. The net effect, advocates for immigrants argue, will be a self-purging of people living and working here legally from the rolls of Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and housing support, among other programs.

We are a country of immigrants or descendants of immigrants, and as a maturing society we will rely more and more on immigration for economic growth. Research shows that even those who start out in low-wage jobs, and thus are likely to get some financial help from the government, often, over time, learn or improve skills that move them into higher income brackets and help the overall economy.

These proposed regulations would force immigrants in low-paying jobs to reject help to which they are legally entitled — and which could speed them along the path to financial security — or to jeopardize their ability to remain here. That's a cruel Solomon's choice.

### Opioid abuse causes run deep The Herald-Dispatch of Huntington, W.Va.

The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives have approved legislation to deal with the growing opioid addiction problem that has affected communities throughout the nation. A conference committee will iron out differences between the versions passed in the separate houses before it goes to President Donald Trump for his signature.

The legislation takes wide aim at the problem, including increasing scrutiny of arriving international mail that may include illegal drugs. It makes it easier for

the National Institutes of Health to approve research on non-addictive painkillers and for pharmaceutical companies to conduct that research.

The Food and Drug Administration would be allowed to require drugmakers to package smaller quantities of drugs such as opioids. And there would be new federal grants for treatment centers, training emergency workers and research on prevention methods.

"How this legislation is implemented will be key as even good legislation implemented poorly will not be helpful," said Karen Yost, CEO of Prestera Center.

"This bill is a start in the right direction, even though it does not address significant underlying issues in this epidemic, including adverse childhood experiences, extreme poverty, gainful employment, safe affordable housing, related chronic health problems and co-occurring mental health problems."

That's a long list, and it helps explain how this problem became so big and is so difficult to overcome.

Another part of the package is the Caring Recovery for Infants and Babies (CRIB) Act, which allows Medicaid payments to pay for care at places such as Lily's Place, which provides residential care for babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome and their parents. It also reauthorizes the Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women grant program and includes grants to help states implement plans of safe care for substance-exposed infants.

The legislation headed toward conference committee does not provide funding for any of the new initiatives. That could be a problem. West Virginia has served as a national template of how severe the opioid addiction problem can be and what can be done to deal with it.

### Before you kill mosquitoes ... The Post and Courier of Charleston, S.C.

Mosquitoes are one of a few irritations we put up with in order to enjoy the many perks of life in the Lowcountry. And fortunately, the consequences of venturing out in the summer without bug spray are usually little more than itchy bumps.

But that's not the case elsewhere around the world, where mosquitoes are responsible for hundreds of millions of cases of illness and millions of deaths each year. They're easily the world's deadliest animal, even more so than humans.

Malaria is a particularly devastating mosquito-borne illness. About half of the world's population lives in areas at risk of malaria, which sickens millions and kills hundreds of thousands of people each year, most of them in Africa.

One group of species — Anopheles gambiae — that are thought to transmit 3,500 types of mosquitoes on earth is responsible for most of that epidemic. And researchers recently announced that they successfully tested a gene modification technique that could cause entire populations of Anopheles gambiae mosquitoes to self-destruct.

That's just one small catch. We don't really have any idea what would happen without mosquitoes. They're food for other animals, they help pollinate plants, they compete with other nasty animals.

According to a report published Monday, scientists have sought to genetically engineer mosquitoes that pass along sterility when they mate. An entire population can be wiped out in a few generations, which for mosquitoes would take just a few months.

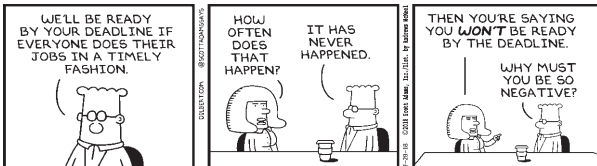
Billions of species have come and gone in the history of our planet. More than a few of them owe their demise to humans. Life on earth is still soldiering on.

Any chance to wipe out malaria and other massively destructive diseases merits investigation. But if we're going to intentionally eradicate a species, we'd better be sure we fully understand the consequences.

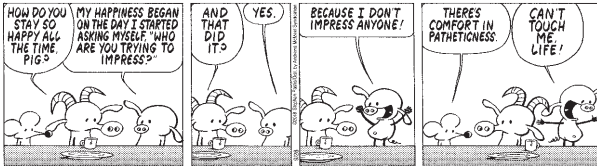
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



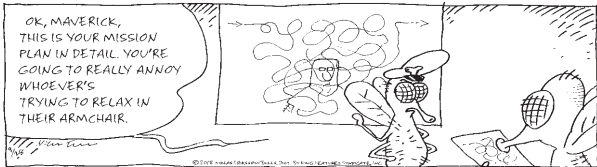
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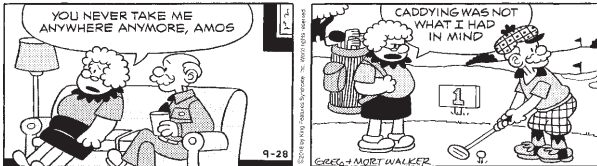
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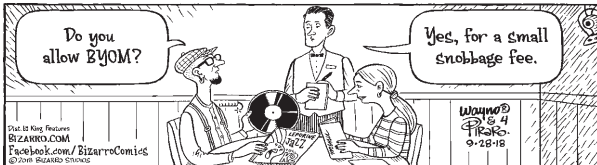
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
		18			19			20		
21	22			23			24			
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38	39	40			41		42		43	
44				45				46		
47				48			49		50	51
52				53			54			
55				56			57			

#### ACROSS

- 1 Treaties
- 6 Science room
- 9 Ga. neighbor
- 12 Moral principle
- 13 Conceit
- 14 Sinbad's bird
- 15 Blinding light
- 16 Ben-Hur's vehicle
- 18 Soprano Scotto
- 20 Being, to Brutus
- 21 "Tasty!"
- 23 Italian "three"
- 24 Enjoyed
- 25 Stagger
- 27 "Peer Gynt Suite" composer
- 29 Deep blue
- 31 Big shot
- 35 Boxer's dream
- 37 Roe provider
- 38 Snacks a
- 41 Vegas opener
- 43 Bio stat
- 44 Swiss river
- 45 Luggage carrier
- 47 "— begins at home"
- 49 Governed
- 52 Filch
- 53 Soundrel
- 54 Crop up
- 55 Dawn goddess

#### DOWN

- 56 Naval letters
- 57 Well-versed folks?
- 21 Hosp. scan
- 22 Chaps
- 24 Zodiac feline
- 26 Roadside trash
- 28 "Rumor has it ..."
- 30 PX patrons
- 32 Chaplin or Sheen
- 33 Witch
- 34 Poem of praise
- 36 London insurer
- 38 "— bleu!"
- 39 "Yippee!"
- 40 Bedouins
- 42 Purse part
- 45 School orgs.
- 46 Modern money
- 48 Hosp. area
- 50 "Guinness Book" suffix
- 51 — Moines

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	O	M	P	A	M	P	S	D	A	K
U	R	A	L	B	A	R	A	R	T	E
M	E	N	U	O	X	O	L	I	O	N
A	S	I	M	O	V	P	S	A	L	M
			E	Y	E		C	M	L	
D	A	B	S		P	R	O	H	I	B
U	R	I		A	A	S		I	S	O
B	I	T	P	A	R	T	S	O	T	T
			T	I	N		I	D	S	
S	P	E	E	D	S		F	O	I	B
N	A	R	C		I	C	I	R	O	U
I	S	L	E		B	E	E	I	N	N
T	O	Y	S		S	O	D		S	E

9-28

#### CRYPTOQUIP

FYIS EYI DZNRE DAGE

QNGZS-QNZSCZSQ CIXZLIR

FINI ZSXISEIC, FGR EYGE G

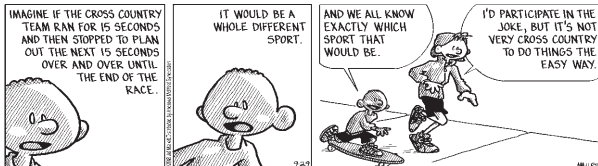
WZAAREJSI WZAIRESJSI?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR OLD SONG ABOUT A LEGENDARY FOLK HERO'S VOTING SLIP: "THE BALLOT OF DAVY CROCKETT."

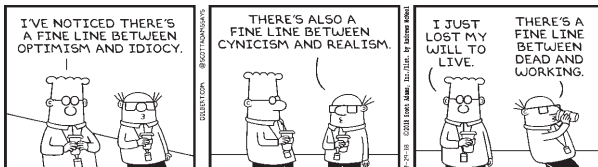
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals F



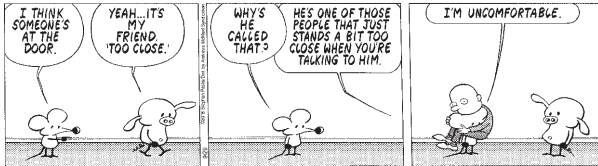
Frazz



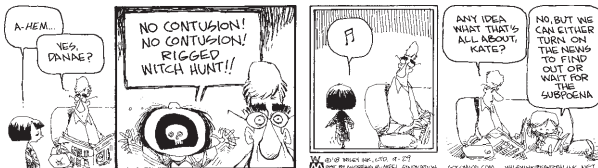
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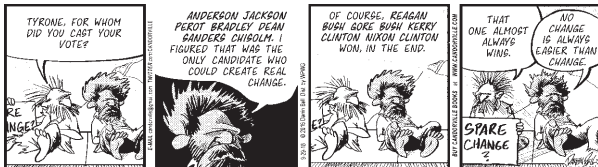
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



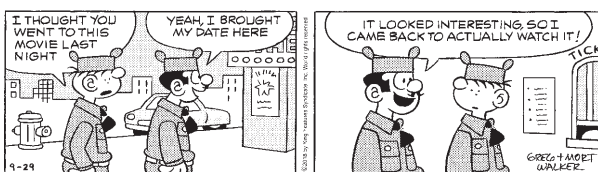
Candorville



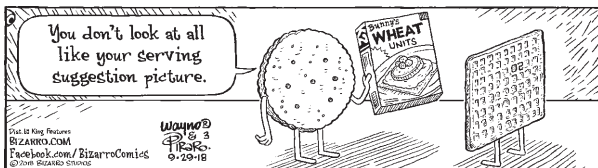
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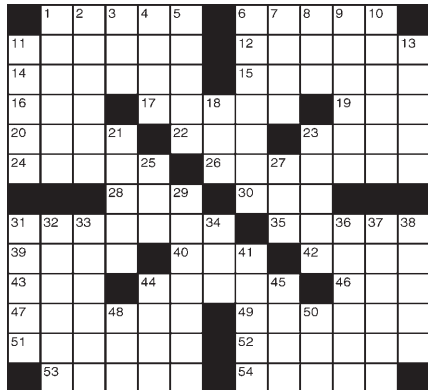
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

- 1 Tightlisted
- 6 Beam
- 11 Aussie gal
- 12 Mementos
- 14 Bean variety
- 15 Retalliate
- 16 Director Lee
- 17 Bolivian city
- 19 Dead heat
- 20 Low digits
- 22 Lobbyists' org.
- 23 Fax
- 24 Road curves
- 26 Inventor Eli
- 28 Balloon filler
- 30 Thee
- 31 Pop singer Spears
- 35 Prepare to transplant, as a flower
- 39 Operates
- 40 Nanny's charge
- 42 Corrida charger
- 43 "GMA" network
- 44 Trivial
- 46 Squid squirt
- 47 Danny of "Lethal Weapon"
- 49 Capital of New South Wales
- 51 Tranquil
- 52 Cuba's Fidel

## DOWN

- 53 Feel
- 54 Nervous
- 23 Daredevil's feat
- 25 Fall from grace
- 27 Debtor's letters
- 29 Pension beneficiary
- 31 Is boastful
- 32 Moscow money
- 33 Encrypted
- 34 Thither
- 36 Scoreboard count
- 37 Cantankerous nickname
- 38 Honshu city
- 39 Pre-Easter
- 40 Car part that purrs
- 41 Puccini opera
- 44 Citi Field team
- 45 TV host Seacrest
- 48 Moving vehicle
- 50 "Spring ahead" hrs. assignments

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 9-29

## CRYPTOQUIP

JQ NDW BZPG VD MGEVWPG  
DWV ZYDEI Z LWEKF DQ  
SZKFNBGPYT, J'B TZN NDW'PG

LPZMJEI VFG GRGSFZEV.T  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE FIRST FLAT GRAIN-GRINDING DEVICES WERE INVENTED, WAS THAT A MILLSTONE MILESTONE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals R



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## AUTO RACING

# 'Everybody is scared to death'

Playoff debut of Charlotte Speedway's 'roval' has fans excited, and drivers nervous

By JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Charlotte Motor Speedway already has a win for the buzz it created by taking a bulldozer to its infield and building something new to NASCAR.

Charlotte's "roval" will debut Sunday in a critical playoff race — a track unlike anything used before in NASCAR. It isn't an oval or a road course; rather, it's a hybrid that uses Charlotte's existing speedway along with a winding course through the infield.

Fans haven't been this excited for a race, for a track, in forever. The 17-turn, 2.28-mile course has a 35-foot change in elevation and everything about it is a mystery even after a handful of test sessions.

It is a lurking monster on the schedule that has terrified teams trying to guess what to expect.

"You're on pins and needles, afraid you're going to bust your butt," said Jimmie Johnson, an eight-time winner on Charlotte's oval.

That is an unsettling feeling before an elimination race that will cut four drivers from the 16-driver field. Drivers didn't like it when Talladega Superspeedway was an elimination race because the Alabama track can be so unpredictable.

At least they could formulate a plan of attack at Talladega.

For the roval, no blueprint exists.

Drivers figured out a shortcut during a test session in July when they used an artificial chicane to cut time rather than to slow their speeds. NASCAR and Charlotte officials have addressed that, but other quirks may pop up as soon as drivers hit the track this week.

The roval has the potential to be one of the most memorable NASCAR events in decades, but it also could be a disaster

### Did you know

The 17-turn "roval" at Charlotte Motor Speedway is the first road course in the history of NASCAR's playoffs.

SOURCE: NASCAR.com

or a demolition derby that makes professional race car drivers look like comedic amateurs. Still, the outcome doesn't matter — well, it does for the four drivers who will be bounced from the playoffs — because this is already a winning moment for NASCAR.

Speedway Motorsports Inc., which owns the track, was willing to try something totally different. Racing at 1.5-mile speedways has lost a lot of its luster, and NASCAR has yet to hit on a rules package capable of creating white-knuckled racing. So SMI made a capital investment on its own property and came up with something unique in the long history of the stock car series.

They get bonus points, too, for creating a wave of panic among teams before the event.

"I'm terrified," said Martin Truex Jr. "I feel really bad for the guys that are going to go in there and have to do something. I think everybody is scared to death of that place."

The bottom four before Charlotte are Clint Bowyer, Johnson, Erik Jones and Denny Hamlin, and they have to tackle a track that appears will be unforgiving and technical. The slightest error may end in a



BOB LEVERONE, GETTY IMAGES/Courtesy of NASCAR

Denny Hamlin maneuvers through the backstretch of "the roval" during testing at Charlotte Motor Speedway on July 10 in Charlotte, N.C. Sunday's debut race at "the roval" in the Cup Series playoffs has the potential to be one of NASCAR's most memorable events — or a disaster.

wrecked race car.

NASCAR was at Richmond Raceway last weekend for a playoff race. Everybody talked about the roval, even in regard to what they had to do at Richmond. A good night at Richmond eased the pressure for Charlotte's mystery track — but those at the bottom have no idea how to save their season.

"Crash all those guys in front of me, is that a good option?" joked Johnson, the seven-time champion who is 14th in the standings.

Drivers may ultimately hate the course and whatever havoc it may wreak on the championship picture.

That's not a bad thing in this current climate. Who wants to see more of the same old Charlotte racing with so much on the line? It's not very exciting, and SMI President Marcus Smith has not only recognized the issue but has been part of an aggressive push to improve Charlotte's stale racing. Smith wanted the exploratory rules package used in the All-Star race and embraced by fans, and the roval is just the next uncharted step.

He could have left things status quo — boring — and Charlotte could have been just another race. The roval, boom or bust, is a hopeful alternative that might go down as the race of the season.



MIKE MCCARN/AP

Charlotte Motor Speedway gets a win for the buzz it created by taking a bulldozer to its infield and building something new to NASCAR. Charlotte's "roval" will debut Sunday in a critical playoff race that highlights a track unlike anything used before in NASCAR. The track isn't an oval or a road course, rather a hybrid venue that combines both Charlotte's existing speedway with a winding course through the infield.



## NHL/OLYMPICS



JOSIE LEPRE/AP

San Jose Sharks general manager Doug Wilson, left, newly acquired defenseman Erik Karlsson via trade from Ottawa, center, and coach Peter DeBoer pose after giving Karlsson his new jersey during a news conference on Sept. 19 in San Jose, Calif.

# Volunteers a premium for Tokyo, but unpaid

By STEPHEN WADE  
Associated Press

**TOKYO** — Tokyo Olympic organizers began their search Wednesday for 80,000 unpaid volunteers to staff many of the venues when the Olympics and Paralympics open in just under two years.

The closing date for applications will be in December, although Tokyo 2020 organizers say they have not set a specific date.

Olympics volunteers are unpaid and typically must provide their own lodging, but they are given uniforms and free meals on the days they work.

The volunteer program has been a staple of the Olympics. Many volunteers relish the behind-the-scenes work, and many return to do it several times.

But the program also has detractors. At every Olympics, volunteers sign up, get the uniforms, and then don't show up for work — or complain about being unpaid even though agreeing to those terms.

The Rio de Janeiro Olympics two years ago had problems finding volunteers, particularly among the poor and working class who could not afford to work for free.

"Volunteers will be an essential part of the games' success in a variety of roles at competition venues and at the athletes' villages," Tokyo 2020 spokesman Masa Takaya said in a statement.

Earlier this month during a visit of International Olympic Committee inspectors, a Japanese reporter told IOC member John Coates that complaints about the Olympic volunteer system were surfacing, particularly in Japanese social media.

"They are hinting that it is similar to forced labor," the reporter said.

"Volunteers are volunteers," Coates replied. "And they don't have to apply if they don't want to."

A review of the volunteer system several years ago by the Associated Press indicated using unpaid volunteers saved the IOC and local organizers about \$100 million — perhaps more.

The IOC generates almost \$6 billion of revenue over a four-year Olympic cycle. The IOC says about 90 percent of the money goes back to national Olympic bodies, sports federations and local organizers.

"The economics of it necessitates having to have volunteers," Coates said. "They get trained, they get their uniforms. They are part of something very exciting."

Coates defended the model and said "I don't think there's a case for paying volunteers."

IOC members like Coates receive per diems of between \$450 to \$900 when they are on Olympic business, and other generous perks like paid lodging at top hotels.

IOC President Thomas Bach gets no salary but receives an allowance of about \$250,000 per year as a "volunteer" president.

**"Volunteers are volunteers. And they don't have to apply if they don't want to."**

John Coates  
IOC member

# Top talent on the move

## Highly coveted players Tavares, Karlsson switch teams

By LARRY LAGE  
Associated Press

**I**t's rare for a franchise player in his prime to leave an NHL team via free agency or trade.

This offseason, it happened twice. Toronto signed John Tavares away from the New York Islanders to make the biggest splash in free agency.

The 28-year-old center with a \$77 million, seven-year contract sounds motivated to validate his hometown Maple Leafs making such an investment in him.

"I think there's a lot to prove," Tavares said. "Resting on what you've already done is where you can kind of get caught especially as your career goes on. Every day, each season, you have to go out there and prove yourself again."

Tavares, a five-time All-Star, had 80-plus points last season for the third time and has averaged nearly 70 points over his nine-year career. And, he's regarded as one of the best two-way players in the league.

After missing out on the Tavares sweepstakes in July, San Jose acquired 28-year-old defenseman Erik Karlsson from Ottawa two-plus months later.

The Sharks gave up a package of young players and picks to get the five-time All-Star and two-time Norris Trophy winner to greatly improve their chances of competing for the Stanley Cup.

Here's a look at some of the other major moves, entering the season:



GEOFF ROBINS, CANADIAN PRESS/AP

John Tavares is with the Toronto Maple Leafs this season after leaving the New York Islanders through free agency.

**Staying put:** The best players in the league usually are paid to stay with their teams and off the free agency market or in trade talks and this year has been no exception.

Los Angeles made sure two-time Stanley Cup-winning defenseman Drew Doughty, who won the Norris Trophy two years ago, wasn't going anywhere. The Kings signed him to an eight-year, \$88 million contract extension that keeps him under contract

through the 2026-27 season.

Tampa Bay kept leading scorer Nikita Kucherov off the market for a long time, signing him to an eight-year, \$76 million contract extension.

The Dallas Stars made a big commitment recently to center Tyler Seguin, giving him a \$78.8 million, eight-year extension after he had at least 72 points for the fifth season in a row.

Washington defenseman John Carlson could have cashed in elsewhere after winning a Cup and having a career-high 68 points. He chose, though, to re-sign with a \$64 million, eight-year deal to stay with the team that drafted him a decade ago.

**Trade winds:** The Vegas Golden Knights bolstered their shot at repeating as Western Conference champions by acquiring forward Max Pacioretty from Montreal earlier this month. They're expecting him to bounce back from an injury-shortened season to contribute 60-plus points as he has five times in his 10-year career.

The St. Louis Blues acquired center Ryan O'Reilly, who set an NHL record for winning 1,273 faceoffs last season, in the hopes of achieving a second straight season without a playoff appearance.

**Welcome back:** The Kings beat out other suitors to sign Ilya Kovalchuk to a three-year, \$18.75 million contract. The 35-year-old, three-time All-Star forward has been playing in Russia since leaving New Jersey and the league in 2013.

AP Sports Writer Josh Dubow contributed to this report.

MLB

## Scoreboard

## American League

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	107	52	.673	—
y-New York	97	61	.614	9½
Tampa Bay	88	70	.557	18½
Toronto	72	87	.453	35
Baltimore	46	112	.291	60½
<b>Central Division</b>				
x-Cleveland	89	69	.563	—
Minnesota	73	84	.465	15½
Detroit	64	94	.405	25
Chicago	63	96	.392	27
Kansas City	56	102	.354	33
<b>West Division</b>				
x-Houston	100	58	.633	—
y-Oakland	96	63	.604	4½
Seattle	86	72	.544	14
Los Angeles	78	81	.491	22½
Texas	66	92	.418	34

## National League

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	89	69	.563	—
Washington	81	78	.509	8½
Philadelphia	78	80	.494	11
New York	74	84	.468	15
Miami	63	96	.392	27
<b>Central Division</b>				
z-Chicago	92	66	.582	—
z-Milwaukee	92	67	.579	½
St. Louis	87	72	.547	5½
Pittsburgh	80	77	.510	11½
Cincinnati	66	93	.415	26½
<b>West Division</b>				
Colorado	88	70	.557	—
Los Angeles	88	71	.555	½
Arizona	81	78	.509	7½
San Francisco	73	86	.459	15½
San Diego	64	95	.403	24½

x-clinched division  
y-clinched wild card  
z-clinched playoff berth

**Wednesday's games**  
Boston 19, Baltimore 3, 1st game  
Baltimore 10, Boston 3, 2nd game  
Toronto 3, Houston 1  
Tampa Bay 8, N.Y. Yankees 7  
Cleveland 10, Chicago White Sox 2  
Minnesota 11, Detroit 4  
L.A. Angels 3, Texas 2  
Oakland 9, Seattle 3  
Washington 9, Miami 3, 7 innings  
Kansas City 6, Cincinnati 1  
Milwaukee 2, St. Louis 1  
N.Y. Mets 3, Atlanta 0  
Chicago Cubs 7, Pittsburgh 6, 10 in-  
nings

Colorado 14, Philadelphia 0  
Arizona 7, L.A. Dodgers 2  
San Diego 3, San Francisco 2

**Thursday's games**  
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay  
Detroit at Baltimore  
Cleveland at Minnesota  
Cincinnati at Kansas City  
Texas at Seattle  
Philadelphia at Colorado  
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets  
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs

**Friday's games**  
Chicago White Sox (Lopez 7-9) at Min-  
nesota (Bernie 11-11)  
Houston (Verlander 16-9) at Baltimore  
(Ramirez 1-7)  
N.Y. Yankees (Lynn 9-10) at Boston  
(Porcello 17-7)  
Toronto (Pannone 4-1) at Tampa Bay  
(TBD)  
Chicago White Sox (Giolito 10-12) at  
Minnesota (De Jong 0-1)  
Cleveland (Clevinger 12-8) at Kansas  
City (Kennedy 3-8)  
Oakland (Fiers 12-7) at L.A. Angels  
(Baria 10-9)  
Texas (Perez 2-6) at Seattle (LeBlanc  
8-5)  
St. Louis (Wainwright 2-3) at Chicago  
Cubs (Hendricks 13-11)  
Pittsburgh (Kipham 5-7) at Cincin-  
nati (Castillo 10-12)  
Atlanta (Gausman 10-10) at Philadel-  
phia (Nola 16-6)  
Miami (Urena 8-12) at N.Y. Mets (Os-  
well 2-3)  
Detroit (Zimmerman 7-8) at Milwau-  
kee (Goes 2-7)  
Washington (Ross 0-1) at Colorado  
(Frederick 16-7)  
Arizona (Corbin 11-7) at San Diego  
(Lauer 6-7)  
L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 6-3) at San Francis-  
co (Bumgarner 6-6)

**Saturday's games**  
Boston at N.Y. Yankees  
St. Louis at Chicago Cubs  
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco  
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati  
Houston at Tampa Bay  
Atlanta at Philadelphia  
Chicago White Sox at Minnesota  
Detroit at Milwaukee  
Miami at N.Y. Mets  
Cleveland at Kansas City  
Washington at Colorado  
Arizona at San Diego  
Oakland at L.A. Angels  
Texas at Seattle

**Sunday's games**  
Atlanta at Philadelphia  
Houston at Baltimore  
L.A. Dodgers at San Francisco  
N.Y. Yankees at Boston  
Oakland at L.A. Angels  
Arizona at San Diego  
Chicago White Sox at Minnesota  
Detroit at Milwaukee  
Miami at N.Y. Mets  
Cincinnati at Cincinnati  
Texas at Seattle  
Toronto at Tampa Bay  
Washington at Colorado  
Cleveland at Kansas City  
St. Louis at Chicago Cubs



BILLY HURST/AP

Hitters like the St. Louis Cardinals' Francisco Pena, left, are on pace to strike out more times this season than get hits.

# Whiff of offense

## K's top hits, lowest batting average since 1972

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

**T**he most-heard sound at major league ballparks this year was "Strike three!"

A whiff of offense would be nice rather than all those nights filled with nonstop whiffs.

Strikeouts are likely to exceed hits over a full season for the first time in major league history. The overall batting average has dropped to its lowest level since 1972, the year before the designated hitter. Lefty hitters — facing smothering defensive shifts — have fared even worse, with their lowest average since 1968, before the pitcher's mound was lowered.

Starters throw fewer pitches and hard-throwing relievers are changed more frequently. The game has transformed at a dizzying pace.

"We need to thoughtfully review the trends," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said Wednesday.

Manfred looks ahead to a postseason featuring 20-year-old Atlanta star Ronald Acuna Jr., Boston and the New York Yankees, and possibly the Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Dodgers, too.

But much of the offseason will be spent analyzing historic changes.



NAM Y. HUN/AP

**Chicago White Sox's Yoen Moncada reacts after being called out on strikes during the fourth inning of a game against the Chicago Cubs on Saturday in Chicago.**

There were 39,902 strikeouts and 39,833 hits through Tuesday, and Ks exceeded hits over a full month for the first time in April,

then again in June and September. Before this year, the previous low differential for a full month was in April 2017, when there were 138 more hits than strikeouts, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Strikeouts are on track by the season's end on Sunday to set a record for the 11th consecutive season, surpassing last year's 40,104.

The .248 big league batting average is down seven percentage points from last year and a Steroids Era high of .271 in 1999, part of an all-or-nothing approach at the plate. And the .244 average for left-handed hitters is the lowest since .242 in 1968, according to Elias, diminished by defensive shifts placing three infielders on the right side.

No wonder batters swing for the fences.

Pitchers per game for both teams rose from 7.65 to 8.34 over that span, according to Major League Baseball, with average fastball velocity increasing from 91.6 mph to 92.8 mph over the past six years, according to Sports Info.

No pitcher has thrown more than two complete games. The previous low for a leader was four.

James Shields with 11 in 2011 has been the only pitcher to reach double digits since Randy Johnson in 1999. The game was far different when Fernando Valenzuela had 20 in 1986, this year's major league total is 41.

AP Baseball Writer Janie McCauley and AP Sports Writer Pat Graham contributed to this report.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Line fix needed to help Love break free

## Stanford, star RB have run for only half of last year's averages

By RICK EYMER  
Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Bryce Love has yet to match last year's record-setting season and Stanford football coach David Shaw said lack of consistent play by the offensive line has been a major contributor.

Hit by injuries, the offensive line has yet to start the same five guys in back-to-back games, and Shaw thinks that's just part of it.

"We still have some inconsistencies up front," Shaw said. "We've addressed individual accountability."

Love will play a critical role, one way or the other, when No. 7 Stanford plays at No. 8 Notre Dame on Saturday.

The Cardinal's rushing totals are nearly half of what they were last season, when they averaged 202.4 yards a game. This year, Stanford averages 104.3 yards.

"One issue is missing blocks," Shaw said. "Bryce has a couple of big runs and we need to give him more opportunities to make plays."

Love averages 4.3 yards a carry through his first three games — he missed the UC Davis game with a minor injury — far off the 8.1 yards he averaged last year and his career average of 7.3.

"We went into the year knowing teams will try to stop our run-

ner, and rightfully so," Shaw said. "We have to be ready for teams who say 'I don't want 20 to best us.' We have to be sure that when someone is blocked, they stay blocked."

Center Jesse Burkett said it's a matter of fixing a few details that will give Love more opportunities.

"It takes all 11 guys to have a successful play," he said. "If one guy misses an assignment or there's a mental error, it throws everything off."

"We've had a lot of penalties too, holding and false starts. One thing we haven't handled as well as we could have are the unscouted looks. That's when we need to rely on technique."

Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly remains wary of Love's ability despite his lack of production this season.

"He's going to get his yards. He's just too good of a player," Kelly said.

"I think you're really focusing on making sure that you're not short at the point of attack. You can't put him in a situation where he can go the distance. You're looking at minimizing his opportunities to turn easy offensive plays into touchdowns."

Burkett and offensive linemen A.T. Hall, Walker Little and Devry Hamilton have missed time this season, and right guard



CHRIS PIETSCON/AP

Stanford's Bryce Love, center, is averaging 4.3 yards a carry, nearly half of what he did last season.

Nate Herbig has had to play tackle. Hamilton should return this week, and that should stabilize the line.

"Stanford is always going to have a big, physical offensive line," Kelly said. "K.J. Costello has really come into his own this year, distributing the football.

He's got a number of weapons. We all know (JJ) Arcega-Whiteside has been a go-to guy but a number of the tight ends are outstanding, big body types that he can get the football to. We saw that late in the game against Oregon with Colby Parkinson, Kaden Smith."

Costello averages 26.4 yards in

passing and he's been forced to throw a lot with the ineffectiveness of the running game.

"He's made a lot of growth," Shaw said of Costello. "I believe he has a high ceiling and he wants to reach it. We want him to reach it, too. He'll continue to grow, continue to improve."

## Haskins' profile rises as Buckeyes prepare for Penn St.

By MITCH STACY  
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Dwayne Haskins Jr. got a phone call from coach Urban Meyer on Saturday night, hours after the quarterback bullied Tulane in a performance that turned up the volume of talk about Haskins' potential Heisman Trophy candidacy.

Meyer wanted to make sure Haskins was keeping his feet on the ground as the hype around him intensifies.

"I called him driving home with that message, just stay focused," Meyer said Monday. "We've had some pretty high-profile guys around here, and I've seen it go both ways. One thing about Columbus, Ohio, is this is the show, and they become bigger than life. But he's a really humble guy, he's a very conscientious guy, comes from a great family. So he's been great so far."

The spotlight on the third-year junior will only get brighter if he can go into a hostile "white out" at Beaver Stadium and lead No. 4 Ohio State past No. 9 Penn State in a nationally televised game Saturday night.

His eye-popping passing numbers are even better than they seem, considering he didn't play for big chunks of the second half after Ohio State was comfortably ahead in three of its four wins this year. On Saturday, he threw for 304 yards and five



Jay LaPrete/AP

Ohio State quarterback Dwayne Haskins, a third-year junior, is second among Division I quarterbacks in touchdowns and completion percentage.

touchdowns in the first half before taking a seat.

Haskins is second among Division I quarterbacks in touchdowns (16) and

completion percentage (75.7), third in quarterback rating (207) and is in the top 10 in passing yards and yards per attempt. He has been sacked only three times and

picked off just once. The only player who has more touchdowns passes is Hawaii's Cole McDonald with 20, but he has played in one more game.

"I just want to show how dangerous the offense is, and with me at the helm, a lot of plays can be made," said Haskins, whose default setting is to heap praise on the offensive line and receivers before saying much, if anything, about himself.

He is turning heads with his ability to throw into tight spots and launch perfectly placed long balls.

"Dwayne for Heisman," Ohio State receiver Austin Mack said after the 49-6 rout of Tulane that earned Haskins his second Big Ten co-player of the week designation this season. "He's being a pro, making a lot of tough reads and throwing the ball incredible. We all knew what Dwayne could do. It was just a matter of if he could be the guy on Saturdays."

Meyer credits Haskins' development with the relationship the player has with quarterbacks coach Ryan Day and being able to work on his skills over the past two years while J.T. Barrett held down the starting job.

"He wasn't ready as a true freshman," Meyer said. "Last year he was getting closer and closer, but he didn't see it. You saw him throw the ball nice, but that's one-third of playing quarterback. It's toughness and leadership. I just think it's the maturation of a gifted player."



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Top 25 schedule

<b>Thursday</b>	
No. 16 Miami vs. North Carolina	
<b>Saturday</b>	
No. 1 Alabama vs. Louisiana-Lafayette	
No. 2 Georgia vs. Tennessee	
No. 3 Clemson vs. Syracuse	
No. 4 Ohio State at No. 9 Penn State	
No. 5 LSU vs. Mississippi	
No. 6 Oklahoma vs. Baylor	
No. 7 Stanford at No. 8 Notre Dame	
No. 10 Auburn vs. Southern Miss	
No. 11 Washington vs. No. 20 BYU	
No. 12 West Virginia at No. 25 Texas Tech	
<b>Tech</b>	
No. 13 UCF vs. Pittsburgh	
No. 14 Michigan at Northwestern	
No. 17 Kentucky vs. South Carolina	
No. 18 Texas at Kansas State	
No. 19 Oregon at No. 24 California	
No. 21 Michigan State vs. Central Michigan	
<b>gans</b>	
No. 22 Duke vs. Virginia Tech	
No. 23 Mississippi State vs. Florida	

## Service academies

<b>vs. Nevada</b>	
Utah State	Lost 42-24 at Utah State
<b>at Buffalo</b>	
Utah State	Lost 28-21 in OT at Oklahoma
<b>Does not play</b>	
Utah State	Lost 31-30 in OT at SMU

## Power Five standings

<b>ACC</b>	
<b>Atlantic</b>	
Clemson	Conf. 1
Syracuse	2
Boston College	3
NC State	4
Louisville	5
Wake Forest	6
Florida State	7
<b>Coastal</b>	
Virginia	1
Virginia Tech	2
North Carolina	3
Baylor	4
Duke	5
Miami	6
Georgia Tech	7
<b>Big 12</b>	
Oklahoma	1
West Virginia	2
Texas	3
Texas Tech	4
Oklahoma State	5
TCU	6
Kansas State	7
Kansas	8
Iowa State	9
<b>Big Ten</b>	
<b>East</b>	
Ohio State	1
Penn State	2
Maryland	3
Michigan	4
Michigan State	5
Indiana	6
Rutgers	7
<b>West</b>	
Wisconsin	1
Northwestern	2
Iowa	3
Minnesota	4
Illinois	5
Purdue	6
Nebraska	7
<b>Pac-12</b>	
<b>North</b>	
Stanford	2
Washington	3
Stanford	4
Oregon	5
Washington State	6
Oregon State	7
<b>South</b>	
Arizona	1
USC	2
Colorado	3
UCLA	4
Utah	5
Arizona State	6
<b>SEC</b>	
<b>East</b>	
Georgia	2
Kentucky	3
Florida	4
South Carolina	5
Missouri	6
Vanderbilt	7
Tennessee	8
<b>West</b>	
Alabama	1
LSU	2
Auburn	3
Mississippi State	4
Arkansas	5
Texas A&M	6
Texas	7
Arkansas	8



JAY LAPORTE/AP

**Ohio State defensive end Chase Young, right, sacks Tulane quarterback Jonathan Banks last week in Columbus, Ohio. The No. 4 Buckeyes travel to No. 9 Penn State on Saturday (1:30 a.m. Sunday, CET; 8:30 a.m. JKT, AFN-Sports) for a Big Ten showdown.**

## Key Power Five matchups

**No. 7 Stanford at No. 8 Notre Dame**  
1:30 a.m. Sunday, CET;  
8:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT  
AFN-Sports2

**Series record:** Notre Dame leads, 19-13.  
**What's at stake?:** Stanford, which rallied from 24-7 halftime deficit to win 38-31 in OT at Oregon, has three straight victories over Notre Dame. The winner stays unbeaten and adds a notable line to a possible College Football Playoff resume.

**Key matchup:** Stanford's talented and tall receivers vs. Notre Dame secondary. QB K.J. Costello threw for 327 yards and three scores against the Ducks — a pair to 6-foot-7 WR JJ Arcega-Whiteside and game-winner to 6-foot-7 TE Colby Parkinson. Notre Dame CB Julian Love (5-foot-11) has nine passes broken up, while CB Troy Pride Jr. and S Jalen Elliott — both 6-footers — have two interceptions each.

**Players to watch:** Stanford: RB Bryce Love. The Heisman Trophy runner-up in 2017 gained 89 yards and scored one TD against Oregon, and he has 287 yards on 46 career carries against the Irish.

**Notre Dame:** QB Ian Book. Coach Brian Kelly says Brandon Wimbush is still in picture, but it's hard to imagine the starter won't be junior Book, who passed for 325 yards, ran for 43 and accounted for five TDs against Wake Forest last week.

**Facts & figures:** This is 35th time top two Top 10 teams have matched up at Notre Dame Stadium with Irish holding 22-11 edge despite losing the last three. The rivalry began Jan. 1, 1925 at the Rose Bowl where Knute Rockne's Four Horsemen team beat Pop Warner's Ernie Nevers-led Stanford squad, 27-10, for Notre Dame's first national championship. ... Stanford and Notre Dame have met every season but two (1995, 1996) since 1988, the year of Notre Dame's 11th and last national title. Irish expect to have senior RB Dexter Williams, who averaged 9.2 yards per carry in 2017, back after a four-game school suspension.

**No. 20 BYU at No. 11 Washington**  
1:30 a.m. Sunday, CET  
8:30 a.m. Sunday, JKT  
AFN-Atlantic

**Series record:** Washington leads 5-4.  
**What's at stake?:** For Washington, it gets an unexpected Top 25 matchup to add to its résumé, while BYU gets another chance to prove it's back with a second road game against a ranked team in three weeks. The Cougars beat Wisconsin two weeks ago and now have a chance to ruin the College Football Playoff hopes for another team from a power conference.

**Key matchup:** Washington's defensive front vs. BYU's run game. The Cougars are averaging 156.5 yards per game rushing, but have the kind of offense that could give Washington problems. Arizona State gave a blueprint last week on how to hang close with the Huskies by having success running the ball in early downs and creating manageable third-down situations. BYU would be smart to follow that plan to try and stop close.

**Players to watch:** BYU: QB Tanner Mangum. Many years ago, Mangum was a target of then-Boise State coach Chris Petersen trying to get to the high school star to stay home and play for the Broncos. Petersen will finally see Mangum on the field playing for the Cougars. Mangum has three TD passes through four games.

**Washington:** LB Ben Burr-Kirven. Burr-Kirven earned a second straight Pac-12 defensive player of the week award when he racked up 20 tackles in the win over Arizona State. It was the most tackles by a Washington player since John Fiala had 22 during the 1996 season. Burr-Kirven is tied for fifth nationally averaging more than 13 tackles per game. **Facts & figures:** Third of four matchups vs. Pac-12 schools this season for BYU. The Cougars already won at Arizona and lost at home to California. Will play at Utah in the regular season finale, BYU's only other game against a Power Five team. ... Washington QB Jake Browning has 10,070 career yards passing, and is 151 yards from breaking Cody Pickett's career school record. ... Washington has won 17 straight nonconference games at home.

**No. 12 West Virginia at No. 25 Texas Tech**  
6 p.m. Saturday, CET; 1 a.m. Sunday, JKT  
AFN-Sports2

**Series record:** West Virginia leads 5-2.  
**What's at stake?:** No more than three Big 12 teams will make it through the first two conference games without a league loss — West Virginia or suddenly surging Texas Tech will be one of them. The Red Raiders lost their opener to Ole Miss before scoring 77 and 63 points to start a winning streak that continued with a 41-17 victory at Oklahoma State in their Big 12 opener. They haven't won consecutive games over top-15 teams in 10 years. The Mountaineers, after an unexpected week off due to a cancellation because of Hurricane Florence, opened conference play with a 35-6 win over Kansas State.

**Key matchup:** The quarterbacks, senior Heisman Trophy hopeful Will Grier vs. Texas Tech freshman Alan Bowman, the national leader with 389 yards passing per game. Grier has 1,117 yards passing (372 a game, third in FBS) with 14 TDs in three games. West Virginia launched a Heisman campaign for Grier this summer after his 3,490 yards and 34 TDs in 11 games last year. Bowman took over for injured McLane Carter in the first half of the opener and is 3-0 as the starter. Bowman has 10 TDs with only two interceptions in 179 attempts.

**Players to watch:** West Virginia: WR David Sills V, who matched the FBS lead last year with 18 TD catches, has five this season. Three of those scores came among his 10 catches against K-State. **Texas Tech:** Freshman RBs To'Whann Henry has rushed for 231 yards and 12 TDs leading six rushing TDs in the past three games.

**Facts & figures:** West Virginia has scored on all 12 of its trips into the red zone (nine TDs). ... The Red Raiders rank fourth nationally with 16 rushing TDs, five more than any other Big 12 team. ... For all its big-play offense, Texas Tech ranks fifth nationally — and first among FBS teams — in time of possession at 36 minutes a game. ... The Mountaineers lead the Big 12 with 10.3 tackles for loss per game.

— Associated Press

## RYDER CUP

# For all its stars, US often folds in Europe

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France — The American team at the Ryder Cup is one of the strongest ever.

It features nine players who have combined to win 31 major championships, nearly half of those by Tiger Woods, who signaled his return last week by winning the Tour Championship. It has Dustin Johnson, who is back at No. 1 in the world. One of only three Ryder Cup rookies on the team is Justin Thomas, who already has won a major and reached No. 1 in the world.

Europe?

That's the team that usually wins the Ryder Cup, especially at home.

These are not "mope" on the European team, the word Thomas Bjorn used to describe two of his captain's picks.

Europe has five major champions, four players among the top 10 in the world. It can make a case as one of the best teams since the days of the "Big Five" in the late 1980s when Seve Ballesteros, Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam and Sandy Lyle began this run of European dominance.

But it's not about what they achieved before getting to the Ryder Cup.

It's about who they become playing under a flag, for a tour, and playing for each other.

"I think that the strength of Europe has been all we get behind one another, and even whatever differences we may have, we put them to the side for this week and we're a cohesive unit," Rory McIlroy said Tuesday. "And that's the way we try to be."

These are two of the strongest teams, the first time the Ryder Cup has ever featured all 10 players from the world rankings.

That only raises the anticipation when the matches start Friday on the first tee at Le Golf National before a grandstand that has just under 7,000 seats. Adding to the plot is that the Americans are defending champions for only the third time since 2002.

Ultimately, the Ryder Cup is decided by who keeps the ball in play, especially with the thick rough at Le Golf National, and who makes putts. Europe, however, has a spirit about it that has allowed for a spotless record at home the last 25 years.

Webb Simpson is playing his third Ryder Cup and already has seen 23 players from Europe on those



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Webb Simpson is participating in his third Ryder Cup as a member of the U.S. team.

three teams. But it's not about names.

"I think they are strong every year in the Ryder Cup no matter who is on the team, or what form they are in," Simpson said. "They have a great team, obviously. They get the Ryder Cup well. You know, 2016 was a great example of how we're getting the Ryder Cup ... we're getting a lot better."

The Americans showed that at Hazeltine, the first year after the Ryder Cup Task Force intended to build a model of continuity. It's the European way, and the U.S. can only hope it will end 25 years of losing the Ryder Cup away from home.

Come Friday, it's about making putts and winning the 18th hole, something Woods believes has held the U.S. back, especially overseas.

Europe still likes to play the underdog role, even having won eight of the last 11 times in the Ryder Cup. It has reason to feel like one in France with such a loaded lineup the Americans offer.



FRANCOIS MORI/AP

Dustin Johnson is back at No. 1 in the world heading into the start of the Ryder Cup on Friday.



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Europe's Jon Rahm has been known to have his emotions on display while on the course. He'll try to keep them in check this weekend.

## European rookies: Stoic to emotional

By STEVE DOUGLAS

Associated Press

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France — Tommy Fleetwood expects to feel 10 times more nervous than he's ever been on a golf course.

Tyrrell Hatton is hoping he doesn't turn into the Hulk.

For the rookies on the European team, the Ryder Cup will be as much a test of their character as their game at Le Golf National this week, and there's just no way of knowing how they'll cope in the most pressurized atmosphere in golf.

There are five in the team and they fall into two camps.

Hatton and Jon Rahm are the hot-heads. Expect some choice language, tantrums, the slamming of clubs and probably some sulking. Rahm has been using a mental coach in a bid to channel his emotions in the right way, and Hatton also recognizes he needs to change and, in his words, "grow up."

"I've lost golf tournaments from getting in my own way," Hatton said on Tuesday.

"If I've played a tournament and I know I've been bad," he added, "you're at home cringing on the sofa watching it."

Then there's the cool heads. Fleetwood and two rookies from Scandinavia — Alex Noren and Thorbjorn Olesen — stay largely composed and keep their frustrations in line.

Asked to describe his last pressurized situation, Fleetwood veered away from golf and to a big moment in his personal life about this time last year.

"I was a bit overwhelmed when my wife was giving birth," he said, laughing.

Ian Poulter, a veteran of five Ryder Cups, has taken the rookies under his wing at the start of this week, making sure they feel comfortable in the team room and giving them little bits of advice like bringing waterproofs to the photo shoot early Tuesday.

"It's a daunting week," said Poulter, who recalled his own debut in 2004 at Oakland Hills, and the strange sensations he felt as he walked out for his first match.

The first tee shot at a Ryder Cup is widely regarded as the most nerve-wracking in golf and players this week will be surrounded by the biggest first-tee grandstand ever seen in the event. It seats 6,500 spectators.

It's a shot, and an occasion, that has been on Fleetwood's mind since the Ryder Cup became a realistic goal of his.

"It's something that everybody wants in their career, so as nerve-wracking as it is, and whatever those feelings are, everybody wants that in their life," Fleetwood said. "So you have to just take it on and let it all happen."

Europe captain Thomas Bjorn said on Tuesday he had a "good feeling" about his rookies, who all qualified automatically, and for good reason. Rahm is No. 8 in the world; Fleetwood is the current European No. 1. Noren has won six events in the last two years, including the French Open at Le Golf National in July.

The Europeans had six rookies when they lost at Hazeltine in 2016, and none of them made it back to Paris. Rahm and Fleetwood, however, should be fixtures on the team for years, and are players Bjorn could lean on heavily this week.

NFL

# Pats not panicked after slow start

## No single cause to New England's struggles

BY KYLE HIGHTOWER  
Associated Press

BOSTON — Two weeks, two head-shaking losses by the New England Patriots.

In Week 2, the Patriots' defense was deficient in a 31-20 loss to Jacksonville in which the Patriots were victimized on third down.

There were problems all over the field in Sunday's stunning 26-10 loss at Detroit, though it was Tom Brady and the Patriots offense that struggled the most against a defense coached by former Patriots defensive coordinator and new Lions head coach Matt Patricia.

It's left New England at 1-2 for the first time since 2012. Things won't get any easier as the Patriots prepare to open their division schedule against 3-0 Miami.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said he sees problems everywhere on the field right now.

"We're not making enough plays in any phase of the game, so we've just got to perform better," he said. "I think the energy and the effort and all of that — we're trying. Everybody's trying hard. We're just not getting it done, which is all that matters."

One of the most surprising things in Sunday's loss to the Lions was how ineffective Detroit managed to render quarterback Tom Brady.

The reigning regular-season MVP completed just 14 of 26 passes for 133 yards with one

### Did you know

Tom Brady's 133 passing yards against the Lions last Sunday were his fewest in a game since he went 8 of 16 for 80 yards against the Buffalo Bills on Dec. 28, 2014.

SOURCE: Associated Press

touchdown. He also had a costly interception midway through the fourth quarter that helped the Lions seal the victory.

The 133 passing yards for Brady were his fewest in a game since he went 8 of 16 for 80 yards against Buffalo on Dec. 28, 2014.

What's more troubling, though, is an offense that over the past two weeks has gone 6 of 21 on third down.

"We're not scoring enough points. We're not executing well enough on a down-by-down basis. Certainly, at a high level, we should have our expectations set in," Brady said.

"The process has been the same, there's been a lot of talk about it in practice, and we're going through it and watching the film and correcting stuff, it's just not getting done on the field. And



PAUL SANCTA/AP

**Patriots quarterback Tom Brady sits on the bench during the second half of last Sunday's game against the Lions in Detroit. New England is off to a 1-2 start after the reigning regular-season MVP completed just 14 of 26 passes for 133 yards in the Patriots' 26-10 loss to the Lions.**

we have to get it corrected soon."

One common theme in the way the Jaguars and Lions succeeded in limiting the Patriots offensively, was keying on tight end Rob Gronkowski. One of Brady's favorite options, Gronk has just 13 catches for 189 yards and a touchdown this season.

He hasn't scored in either of the two losses, hauling in only six total receptions.

But Gronkowski said no one inside the Patriots' locker room is panicking about starting 1-2.

"I mean, it's early, it's football and it's the NFL," he said. "Some crazy things happen every single week and we've just got to bounce back. We can't put our heads down, we have to keep them up. We've got to keep on fighting and there's another week next week."

"We've got a big division game next week versus Miami. We've just got to keep on fighting. It's a long season, I know we're 1-2 right now, but we've got to keep on fighting and keep on going. There's no other way to do it."

New England has displayed numerous issues in the passing game, but its inability to produce a sustained rushing attack has been just as glaring.

Now the Patriots will have to find a way to fix things without starting running back Rex Burkhead. He was placed on injured reserve Wednesday, three days after he left the loss to the Lions with a neck injury.

"It's been inconsistent," Belichick said. "We need more consistency in every area of our game."

# Offense: Chiefs have both quantity and quality at skill positions

FROM BACK PAGE

line blocking so well, I can sit in the pocket and get through my whole entire read and find the open guy."

That was once again evident against the 49ers, when Mahomes targeted 11 different receivers and connected with nine.

Travis Kelce led the way with eight catches for 114 yards, his second straight 100-yard performance, and Sammy Watkins hauled in five catches for 55 yards and a touchdown.

But the breadth of the Chiefs' options was really apparent in the fact that Mahomes' other two touchdown passes went to No. 3 wide receiver Chris Conley and backup tight end Demetrius Harris.

Even little-used wide receiver Marcus Kemp managed a reception.

"I've never played with an offense that good before," said Tyreek Hill, who had two catches for 51 yards. "Like I was telling Sammy, man, I'm excited to have all these weapons on the team. It's amazing, man, because a defense has got to worry about so many options."

It's not just the quantity, though. The Chiefs have quality players at every position, and in most cases they have multiple guys capable of stepping onto the field without missing a beat.

"Guys everywhere," Mahomes said.



DON WRIGHT/AP

**Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce (87) makes a touchdown catch over Steelers cornerback Cameron Sutton during last Sunday's game in Pittsburgh.**

**"I'm excited to have all these weapons on the team. It's amazing, man, because a defense has got to worry about so many options."**

**Tyreek Hill**

Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver

"Knowing that I have those weapons, whenever someone has to get a break — we say if you're tired, get a break, because I know I can trust the next guy coming in."

That's hardly a luxury most teams experience.

Then there's the variety of talent.

Kelce is one of the league's best tight ends, a capable blocker whose soft hands allowed him to spear a high throw on Sunday that few others could catch. And when he gets into the open field, just ask 49ers linebacker Reuben Foster how difficult it is to bring him down.

On the outside are Watkins and Hill, giving the Chiefs not only two of the fastest playmakers in the league, but also two of the most sure-handed.

Yes, Hill only had two catches against San Francisco, but one was a leaping grab deep downfield while two defenders in tight coverage, while Watkins made his mark by catching slant routes in traffic

and making guys miss.

Indeed, his touchdown grab Sunday looked as if someone was running a gauntlet.

When defenses finally try nickel and dime packages to cover the downfield threats, the Chiefs merely have the reigning NFL rushing champion in Hunt ready to handle the ball.

He finally got into the end zone Sunday for his first two touchdowns this season.

"Coach (Andy) Reid has done an unbelievable job of creating these plays," Kelce said. "Right now we're just dialing them up and going out there and executing what's called. It's as simple as that."

It hasn't been much fun for opposing defenses.

"We have to do a little better in the second half," offensive lineman Mitch Schwartz said Sunday. "but we had nine possessions. Five touchdowns and a field goal. That's pretty good."



## NFL



New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees is, at 39, having one of his best seasons. AP

# Saints' Brees is 39, but other numbers belie age

QB has completed 80.6 percent of his passes through 3 games

By BRETT MARTEL

Associated Press

METAIRIE, La. — If Drew Brees maintains his recent form through the bulk of this season, the record-setting Saints quarterback could wind up having one of his best years yet at the age of 39.

Brees' completion rate is 80.6 percent through the first three games — high even by his standard.

But is it sustainable?

"I don't see why not," Brees said. "I mean, listen, it's not easy."

No, he's just made it look that way.

Brees began the season 78 completions behind Brett Favre's record of 6,300 and needed barely more than two games to set a new mark — now 6,326 and counting. Brees has completed 104 of 129 passes for 1,078 yards and eight TDs with no interceptions.

This after he set the NFL record last season for completion rate at 72 percent.

And he'll likely break Peyton Manning's record of 71,940 yards passing within two more games. He's 417 yards away from that mark.

While Brees is pleased by his statistical production, he said he measures his performance more by the quality of his decisions.

"I've always had a goal that I want to continue to get better each and every year. Sometimes you can't always measure that," Brees said, offering the example of how throwing the ball away shows up as an incompletion, but is markedly preferable to taking a sack or committing a turnover.

"There's certain things stats don't always show as to your true production," Brees said. "I want to build confidence with my offense. I want to be in control of the huddle. I want to lead the huddle. I want to make those guys believe and get the best out of them."

"And I want to make great decisions when I have the opportunity — and then produce. So as long as I'm able to do those things, that's what drives me."

The bulk of Brees' passes have gone to receiver Michael Thomas and to running back Alvin Kamara.

It's hard to argue with that decision-making. Both have made a number of clutch plays in New Orleans' two victories, and even in their 48-40 loss to Tampa Bay — blame for which could hardly be pinned on New Orleans' offense.

Thomas has 38 catches — the most by an NFL player through the first three games of a season. He also has 398 yards and three TDs receiving.

In discussing his high completion rate, Brees said Thomas has been a "huge" factor.

"He's a great target. He's a great matchup," Brees said. "It's good to have the weapons that we have on offense. More so than that, it's good that everybody has the mindset that they have, and that is that at any time, their number could be called."

Kamara has caught 30 passes for 298 yards and one TD receiving. He often catches the ball out of the backfield.

While such throws tend to yield modest gains and are often considered "check-down" throws — safer, easier alternatives to throwing downfield — Brees is unapologetic.

"It's about identifying matchups. It's making sure that you get positive plays," Brees said.

Saints players have long raved about Brees' work ethic, adherence to routine, command of the game plan, knack for reading defenses and ability to make wise decisions.

But his aging body still has to be able to make throws under pressure and even scramble once in a while, as he did for a 7-yard touchdown in a victory at Atlanta last Sunday.

## Focus on roughing is a black eye for league

By ARNIE STAPLETON

Associated Press

The NFL is getting roughed up over its amplified enforcement of roughing-the-passer penalties that has generated head-scratching calls — and a season-ending injury to a defender trying to comply with the league's mandate not to land fully on the quarterback.

In the offseason, NFL owners asked the league's competition committee to better protect their prized quarterbacks after Vikings linebacker Anthony Barr broke Packers star Aaron Rodgers' collarbone in 2017.

So the league dusted off a rarely invoked 24-year-old rule that outlaws defenders from landing on the quarterback with more than half of their body weight.

"It helps me out because I'm a quarterback," said Deshaun Watson of the Texans. "But some of the calls are just kind of crazy."

So inconsistent, in fact, that Packers linebacker Clay Matthews, whose been whistled three times, suggested the league has gone soft. He argued that what constitutes a clean hit is anybody's guess nowadays.

Defenders who are only allowed to target a strike zone basically consisting of the torso now must also concern themselves with breaking the quarterback's fall. Or at least doing a "gator roll" where they spin the QB as they tumble to the turf.

The gator roll is "an unnatural move when you are trying to tackle a big guy" like Ben Roethlisberger or Andrew Luck, said Bengals defensive coordinator Teryl Austin. "They will shrug you off."

Broncos linebacker Shane Ray said the gator roll isn't even an option much of the time.

"Sometimes you're at an awkward angle or you might be pushed into him," Ray said. "It's chaotic in there."

Trying to keep the quarterback safe can also be dangerous to a defender, as it was Sunday when Dolphins DE William Hayes tore his right ACL trying to avoid landing on Raiders QB Derek Carr.

"They don't care about the rest



Clay Matthews, right, has been penalized three times this season for roughing the passer. AP

of us getting hurt. Long as the QB is safe," fumed 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman when he retweeted a video clip of Hayes getting hurt.

"Let's keep it honest, that rule is a tough rule to gauge," Dolphins defensive tackle Akeem Spence said. "Will is going to make a play, trying to sack the quarterback and then roll off at the end, not trying to put all of his weight and get a sack taken away. He ended up being hurt, and it sucks, because he's trying to protect the quarterback while still trying to make a play."

There have been 34 roughing-the-passer calls so far. While that works out to just one flag for every 100 pass attempts, it represents a massive increase over previous years. There were 16 such penalties through three weeks last season and 20 the year before that.

The lack of consistency and clarity is why "I don't like the rule," said Fox's Troy Aikman, whose Hall of Fame career was cut short by the battering he took during a 12-year stint as Cowboys quarterback.

"I think the league overreacted, and I think they will continue to look at it with the controversy that's been created," Aikman said.



An increased focus on roughing the passer penalties has produced controversy and a season-ending injury for a defender. Dolphins DE William Hayes tore his right ACL trying to avoid landing on Raiders QB Derek Carr. AP



# GAMEDAY

WEEK 4

TELEVIEWED GAMES



**Miami Dolphins (3-0)**  
**at New England Patriots (1-2)**

AFN-Sports  
7 p.m. Sunday CET  
2 a.m. Monday JKT  
**Series:** Dolphins lead 54-39.

**Last meeting:** Dolphins beat Patriots 27-20, Dec. 11, 2017.

**Notes:** Patriots have won three of last four. ... Dolphins QB Ryan Tannehill completed 17 of 23 passes for 289 yards and three TDs last week. ... Patriots RB Sony Michel rushed for 50 yards in first career start last week. ... Patriots TE Rob Gronkowski has eight TD catches in 11 games against Dolphins.



**Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2-1)**  
**at Chicago Bears (2-1)**

AFN-Atlantic  
7 p.m. Sunday CET  
2 a.m. Monday JKT  
**Series:** Bears lead 38-20.

**Last meeting:** Buccaneers beat Bears 29-7, Sept. 9, 2017.

**Notes:** Buccaneers have won last two. ... Buccaneers QB Jameis Winston is expected to make his season debut after sitting out the first three games for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy. ... Bears LB Khalil Mack has four sacks, three forced fumbles and a 27-yard interception return for a TD.

## Marquee matchup

### Philadelphia Eagles (2-1) at Tennessee Titans (2-1)

AFN-Sports2, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, 2 a.m. Monday JKT

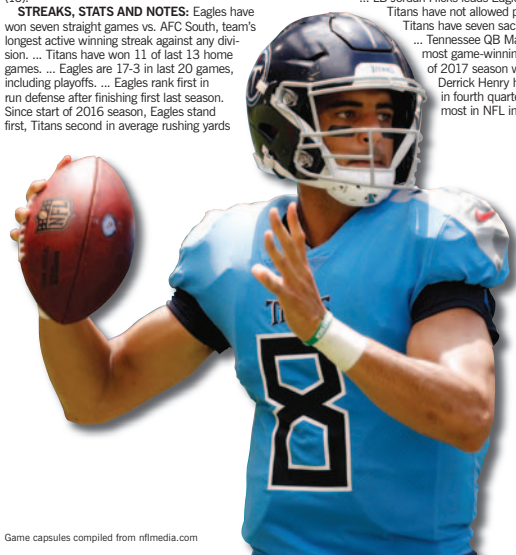
**SERIES RECORD:** Eagles lead 7-4.  
**LAST MEETING:** Eagles beat Titans 43-24, Nov. 23, 2014.  
**EAGLES OFFENSE:** OVERALL (19), RUSH (11), PASS (20).  
**EAGLES DEFENSE:** OVERALL (9), RUSH (1), PASS (18).  
**TITANS OFFENSE:** OVERALL (29), RUSH (10), PASS (29).  
**TITANS DEFENSE:** OVERALL (12), RUSH (23) PASS (10).

**STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES:** Eagles have won seven straight games vs. AFC South, team's longest active winning streak against any division. ... Titans have won 11 of last 13 home games. ... Eagles are 17-3 in last 20 games, including playoffs. ... Eagles rank first in run defense after finishing first last season. Since start of 2016 season, Eagles stand first, Titans second in overall rushing yards

allowed per game. ... Philly leads NFL in time of possession (36:03). ... Eagles QB Carson Wentz is 3-0 with six TDs, one pick in past three games vs. AFC. ... Eagles TE Zach Ertz's 21 catches are first at his position. He's two receptions away from passing Jeremy Maclin (343) for ninth place on team's all-time list. ... Rookie TE Dallas Goedert had seven catches for 73 yards and one TD last week. ... Eagles allowing 3.3 points per red-zone drive. ... DT Fletcher Cox leads Eagles with three sacks. He's tied with Seth Joyner for eighth on team's all-time list with 37 sacks. ... LB Jordan Hicks leads Eagles with 19 tackles. ...

Titans have not allowed pick in first quarter. ... Titans have seven sacks over past two games. ... Tennessee QB Marcus Mariota tied for most game-winning drives since start of 2017 season with five. ... Titans RB Derrick Henry has 452 yards rushing in fourth quarter since 2017, second most in NFL in that span.

— Associated Press



**Titans quarterback**  
**Marcus Mariota**  
BRYNN ANDERSON/AP



**New Orleans Saints (2-1)**  
**at New York Giants (1-2)**

AFN-Sports  
10:25 p.m. Sunday CET  
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT  
**Series:** Giants lead 16-13.

**Last meeting:** Giants beat Saints 16-13, Sept. 18, 2016.

**Notes:** Giants have won two of past three meetings. ... Saints QB Drew Brees completed 39 of 49 passes last week for 396 yards and three TDs. ... Giants rookie RB Saquon Barkley had 117 scrimmage yards (82 rushing, 35 receiving) and a rushing TD last week and aims for fourth in a row with 100 scrimmage yards.



**Baltimore Ravens (2-1)**  
**at Pittsburgh Steelers (1-1-1)**

AFN-Sports  
2:15 a.m. Monday CET  
9:15 a.m. Monday JKT  
**Series:** Steelers lead 24-20.

**Last meeting:** Steelers beat Ravens 39-38, Dec. 10, 2017.

**Notes:** Steelers have won past three. ... Ravens QB Joe Flacco passed for 277 yards and a TD last week. ... Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger completed 30 of 38 passes for 353 yards and a TD last week for a 120.7 rating. ... Steelers RB James Conner had 95 scrimmage yards last week.

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com

#### Also on AFN:

**San Francisco 49ers (1-2) at Los Angeles Chargers (1-2), AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m. Sunday CET, 5 a.m. Monday JKT**  
**Cleveland Browns (1-1-1) at Oakland Raiders (0-3), AFN-Sports2, 10 p.m. Sunday CET, 5 a.m. Monday JKT**

#### EXPANDED STANDINGS

##### American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	West	North	South	AFC	NFC	Div
Miami	3	0	0	1.000	75	52	2-0-0	1-0-0	3-0-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
New England	1	2	0	.333	57	77	1-0-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Buffalo	1	2	0	.333	50	84	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0	.333	77	58	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-0-0	0-1-0
Tennessee	2	1	0	.667	49	50	1-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-0-0	2-0-0
Jacksonville	2	1	0	.667	57	44	1-1-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	60	63	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0
Houston	0	3	0	.000	59	74	0-1-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Cincinnati	2	1	0	.667	89	77	1-0-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0
Baltimore	2	1	0	.667	97	51	2-0-0	0-1-0	2-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
Pittsburgh	1	1	1	.500	60	59	1-0-1	0-1-0	1-0-1	0-1-0	0-0-1
Kansas City	3	0	0	1.000	115	92	1-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Denver	2	1	0	.667	61	70	2-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	0-1-0
L.A. Chargers	1	2	0	.333	82	93	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0
Oakland	0	3	0	.000	52	81	0-1-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-1-0	0-1-0

##### National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	West	North	South	NFC	AFC	Div
Washington	2	1	0	.667	64	44	1-1-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	59	55	2-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
Dallas	1	2	0	.333	41	53	1-0-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	0-0-0	1-0-0
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	55	62	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	102	91	1-1-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	0-1-0	1-0-0
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	104	103	1-1-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	1-1-0
Carolina	2	1	0	.667	71	60	2-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	80	85	1-1-0	0-1-0	1-2-0	0-0-0	1-1-0
Chicago	2	1	0	.667	63	55	1-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
Green Bay	1	1	1	.500	70	83	1-0-1	0-1-0	1-1-1	0-0-0	1-0-1
Minnesota	1	1	1	.500	59	72	1-1-0	0-0-1	1-0-1	0-1-0	0-0-1
Detroit	1	2	0	.333	70	88	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0
L.A. Rams	3	0	0	1.000	100	86	2-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	65	64	1-0-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
San Francisco	1	2	0	.333	73	89	1-0-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Arizona	0	3	0	.000	20	74	0-2-0	0-1-0	0-3-0	0-0-0	0-1-0

#### REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Cincinnati at Atlanta  
Houston at Indianapolis  
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville  
Detroit at Dallas  
Buffalo at Green Bay  
Seattle at Arizona  
**Open:** Washington, Carolina  
**Monday's game**  
Kansas City at Denver

#### NEXT WEEK

**Thursday, Oct. 4**  
**Houston at Indianapolis**  
**Sunday, Oct. 7**

Miami at Carolina  
N.Y. Giants at Carolina  
Jacksonville at Kansas City  
Green Bay at Detroit  
Baltimore at Cleveland  
Atlanta at Pittsburgh  
Tennessee at Buffalo  
Oakland at L.A. Chargers  
Minnesota at Philadelphia  
Arizona at San Francisco  
L.A. Rams at Seattle  
Dallas at Houston  
**Open:** Tampa Bay, Chicago  
**Monday, Oct. 8**  
Washington at New Orleans

## SPORTS



## Ground game gone

Stanford RB Love struggling behind inconsistent offensive line » **Page 58**

NFL

# CHOOSE YOUR WEAPON



## Chiefs' offense spreading the wealth during blistering start

By DAVE SKRETTA  
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — There was a play midway through the Kansas City Chiefs' 38-27 victory over the San Francisco 49ers in which Patrick Mahomes eluded

the pass rush, rolled out to his right and flipped a short, simple pass to running back Kareem Hunt in the flat.

He had at least two other wide receivers wide open, too.

Such is the nature of the Kansas

City offense through the first three weeks of the season, and the challenge it has presented to a trio of defenses.

Even if they manage to contain one target, or even two or three, Mahomes always seems to have some-

body else wide open downfield.

"It's hard for teams to play every single one of them," Mahomes said Sunday night. "I know if I get through my reads there will be someone open. With the offensive

**SEE OFFENSE ON PAGE 61**

From left, Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill, quarterback Patrick Mahomes and running back Kareem Hunt.

PHOTOS BY JOHN SLEEZER/TNS, AND ED ZURGA/AP

US looking for Ryder Cup success in Europe » **Page 60**

